

MOTIVES
For returning to the
Catholick Church,
WITH A
PROFESSION *K*
OF *Trent, Council of*
Catholick FAITH,

Extracted out of the
COUNCIL of TRENT by Pope
PIUS IV.

And now in Use for the Reception of Con-
verts into the Church.

With the Chief GROUNDS of the con-
troverted ARTICLES.

By Way of QUESTION and ANSWER.

*Be ready always to give an Answer to every one that
asketh you a Reason of the Hope that is in you.*

1 Pet. iii. 15.

*Stand and look upon the Ways, and ask after the Paths of
old: see which is the good Way, and walk in it, and
ye shall find the Refreshment of your Souls.*

Jer. vi.

*Whosoever will be saved: Before all Things it is necessary
that he hold the Catholick Faith. Which Faith except
every one do keep whole and undefiled: Without doubt he
shall perish everlastingly.*

St. Athanasius's Creed.

Printed in the Year M.DCC.LV.



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INTRODUCTION.

IN which are briefly proposed some Motives or rational Inducements, to the *Catholick Faith*, which according to Dr. *Jeremy Taylor* a learned *Protestant Prelate* (*Lib. of Propb. Sect. xx. p. 249, 250.*) may very easily persuade Persons of much Reason and more Piety to retain that which they know to have been the Religion of their Forefathers, and which had actual Possession and Seizure of Mens Understandings before the opposite Professions had a Name, p. 251.

1st, I consider, says he, p. 249. That those Doctrines that have had long Continuance and Possession in the Church, cannot easily be supposed in the present Professors to be a Design, since they have received it from so many Ages—Long Prescription is a Prejudice oftentimes so insupportable, that it cannot with many Arguments be retrench'd, as relying upon these Grounds that Truth is more ancient than Falshood; that God would not for so many Ages forsake his Church, and leave her in an Error; that whatsoever is new is not only suspicious but False; which are Suppositions pious and plausible enough. We have proved them to be not only pious and plausible Suppositions, but the plain Doctrine of the Word of God, Cap. I. Sect. 1. and 3. He adds for other Motives.

2. The Beauty and Splendor of their Church; their pompous Services; the Stateliness and Solemnity of the Hierarchy.

3. Their Name of CATHOLICK, which they suppose their own Due. They have certainly Reason to suppose so, if the Possession or Prescription of 17

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Ages can make it their Due. I am sure it has fix'd it so strongly upon them, that even their Adversaries cannot help giving it them on many Occasions.

4. *The Antiquity of many of their Doctrines.* He should have said *All*; but this could not be expected from a Protestant.

5. *The continual Succession of their Bishops; their immediate Derivation from the Apostles.*

6. *Their Title to succeed St. Peter, the Supposal and Pretence of his personal Prerogatives.* Grounded upon plain Scripture, as we shall see Chap. xi. and therefore no vain Pretence.

7. *The Multitude and Variety of People which are of their Persuasion.*

8. *Apparent Consent with Antiquity, in many Ceremonials which other Churches have rejected: And a pretended and sometimes an apparent Consent with some elder Ages in many Matters Doctrinal.* Here he minces the Matter for fear of allowing too much: Yet cannot dissemble that venerable Antiquity is apparently on the Catholick Side.

9. *The great Consent of one Part with another in that which most of them affirm to be of Faith. The great Differences commenced among their Adversaries. Whose first Fathers and Teachers from the very Beginning of their pretended Reformation went quite different Ways even to an utter Breach of Communion, which never since could be repaired.*

10. *Their Happiness of being Instruments in converting diverse Nations.* Whereas none of the Reformed Churches have ever yet converted one.

11. *The Piety and the Austerity of their religious Orders of Men and Women. The single Life of their Priests and Bishop:—The Severity of their Fasts and their exterior Observances.* All which the goodnatured Reformation has laid aside.

12. *The great Reputation of their first Bishops for Faith and Sanctity. The known Holiness of some of those Persons, whose Institutes the Religious Persons pretend to imitate.*

13. *Their Miracles, true or false*, says the Doctor, True, say I, if any Faith may be given to the most certain Records of all Ages and of all Nations.

14. *The Casualties and Accidents that have happen'd to their Adversaries*. I suppose he means such as *Luther's* sudden Death after a plentiful Supper; *Zuinglius's* falling in Battel defending his Reform'd Gospel Sword in Hand; *Oecolampadius* his being found Dead in his Bed, oppress'd as *Luther* will have it, (*L. de Miss. privata & unct. Sacerd. T. 7. Wit. fol. 230.*) by the Devil; *Calvin's* dying of a strange Complication of Distempers, consum'd alive by Vermin, &c.

15. *The oblique Arts and indirect Proceedings of some of those who departed from them*. In manifestly corrupting the Scripture, as the first Protestants did in all their Translations, to make it chime with their Errors; in quoting falsely the Fathers and Ecclesiastical Writers; In perpetually misrepresenting in their Sermons and Writings the *Catholick Church* and her Doctrine, a Fault from which the Doctor himself is not exempt, &c.

I have pass'd over some other Things of less Weight which he alledges in the same Place; and shall only desire the Reader to compare the Motives which by the Concession of this Prelate, so much esteem'd by all Protestants, may retain Catholics at present in the Religion of their Forefathers, with those Motives which *St. Augustin* alledged 1300 Years ago against the Hereticks of his Time, and by which he declares himself to have been retain'd in the *Catholick Church*. *L. Contra Epistolam Fund. C. 4.* 'Not to speak, says he, of that true Wisdom which you do not believe to be in the *Catholick Church*: There are many other Things which most justly hold me in her Communion. 1. The Agreement of People and Nations. 2. Her Authority begun by Miracles, nourish'd by Hope, increased by Charity, confirm'd by Antiquity. 3. A Succession of Prelates descending from Peter the Apostle, to whom Christ after his Resurrection

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‘ committed his Flock, to the present Bishop. *Lastly*,
 ‘ The very *Name* of *Catholick* of which this Church
 ‘ alone has not without Reason in such Manner kept
 ‘ the Possession; that tho’ all Hereticks desire to be
 ‘ called *Catholicks*, yet if a Stranger ask them where
 ‘ the *Catholicks* go to Church, none of them all has
 ‘ the Face to point out his own Church or Meeting-
 ‘ House.’ These were *St. Augustin’s* Motives for be-
 ing a *Catholick* and these are ours.

Besides we cannot dissemble that there were many shocking Circumstances in the whole Management of the pretended Reformation, which deter us from embracing it, whatever temporal Inconveniences we are forc’d to sustain by this Recusancy.

1. The first Reformer *Martin Luther* had nothing of extraordinary Edification in his Life and Conversation. On the contrary all his Works declare him to have been a Man of an implacable Nature, rigidly self-willed, impatient of Contradiction, and rough and violent in his Declamations against all those of what Quality soever, who dissented in the least from him. But what was the most scandalous in a pretended Restorer of the Purity of Religion was his marrying a Nun, after the most solemn Vows by which both he and she had consecrated themselves to God in the State of perpetual Continency. In which he was imitated by a great Part of the first Reform’d Ministers.

2. He and his first Associates were certainly Schismatics, because they separated themselves from all Churches pure or impure, true or false that were then upon Earth, and stood alone upon their own Bottom. Therefore if there was any such Thing then in the World as *the true Church of Christ* (as there must always be if the Scripture and Creed be true) *Luther* and his Fellows separating from all Churches must have separated from the true, and consequently must have been Schismatics. *At first*, says *Luther* in the Preface to his Works, *I was all alone*. Which is confirm’d by *Dr. Tillotson*, Sermon 49, p. 588. And *Mr. Callier* in his Historical Dictionary, under *Martin Lu-*
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ther, where he praises his Magniminity in having *opposed himself alone to the whole Earth.*

3. It appears from his Book *de Miss. Privata & Unct. Sacerd. T. 7. Wit. Fol. 228, &c.* that he learnt no small Part of his Reformation from the Father of Lies, in a nocturnal Conference, of which he there gives his Readers an Account. See *1 Tim. iv. v. 1.*

4. Those that were the most Busy in promoting the Reformation here at home were, for the most Part, Men of most wretched Characters, such as *K. Hen. VIII.* and the leading Men in the Government during the Minority of *Edw. VI.* not to speak of the Ministry of *Q. Elizabeth, the most Wicked,* says a late Protestant Historian, (*Short View of Eng. Hist. p. 273.*) *that ever was known in any Reign.*

5. The Foundations of the Reformation of *England* were laid by manifold Sacrileges, in pulling down Monasteries and other Houses consecrated to God; rifling and pillaging Churches, alienating Church-Lands, &c. as may be seen in the History of the Reformation by *Dr. Heylin.* See *2 Tim. iii. v. 1* —8.

6. The Reformation was every where introduced by Lay Authority, and for the most Part in direct Opposition to, and Contempt of the Bishops, the Church Guides of divine Appointment. A Proceeding manifestly irregular and unjustifiable, that in Church Matters the Laity, with a few of the inferior Clergy, and those under the Ecclesiastical Censures, should take upon them to direct those whom *Christ* appointed to be their Directors. See *2 Pet. ii. v. 1, to 4.*

7. *England* herself, which glories most in the Regularity of her Reformation compared to the tumultuous Proceedings of Reformers abroad, owes her present Establishment of the Church to the Lay Authority of *Q. Elizabeth* and her Parliament, in Opposition to all the Bishops then sitting (who were all but one displaced for their Non-Conformity) to the whole Convocation, and both the Universities; that is in a Word, to the whole Clergy of the Kingdom,

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as appears from *Fuller*, L. 9. and *Dr. Heylin's Hist.* of the Ref. p. 285, 286.

8. Wheresoever the Reform'd Gospel was preach'd it brought forth Seditions, Tumults, Rebellions, &c. as appears from all the Histories of those Times. In-
somuch, that in *France* alone the Reform'd Gospel-
lers, besides innumerable other Outrages, are said to
have destroy'd no less than twenty thousand Churches.
Jerusalem and *Babel*, p. 158. How little does such
a Reformation resemble the first Establishment of the
Church of *Christ*?

9. The Fruits of the Reformation were such as could
not spring from a good Tree. 1. An innumerable
Spawn of Heresies. 2. Endless Dissensions. 3. A
perpetual Itch of Changing, and Inconstancy in their
Doctrine. 4. *Atbeism*, *Deism*, *Latitudinarianism*, and
barefaced Impiety; in fine, a visible Change of Man-
ners for the worse, as many of their own Writers
freely acknowledge, and old *Erasmus* long ago ob-
jected to them, *Ep. ad Vultur*. where he desires them
to shew him one who had been reclaimed from Vice
by going over to their Religion; and declares he ne-
ver yet met with one who did not seem chang'd for
the worse. See 2 *Tim.* iii. v. 1. to 8.

10. That Religion is the best to live in which is
the safest to die in, and that in the Judgment of dying
Men who are not like to be bias'd at that Time by
Interest, Humour or Passion. Now it is certain that
Thousands who have lived *Protestants*, have desired
to die *Catholicks*, and never yet one, that had lived a
Catholic desired to die a *Protestant*; therefore it must
be safest for us to stay where we are.

11. That Religion is preferable to all others, the
Doctrine and Preaching of which is and always has
been more forcible and efficacious in order to the tak-
ing off Men's Minds from the perishable Goods of this
World, and fixing them wholly upon the great Busi-
ness of Eternity; but such is the Doctrine and Preach-
ing of the *Catholic* Church as appears from those
Multitudes of holy Solitaries in our Church that have

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retired themselves from all the Advantages to which their Birth or Fortune entitl'd them, and abandon'd all earthly Hopes for the Love of Heaven. Whereas the Reformation has never yet produced any such Fruits.

12. There was a true saving Faith in the Days of our Forefathers before the pretended Reformation, by which great Numbers are certainly arriv'd at the happy Port of eternal Felicity. Our Histories are all full of Instances of Charity, Piety and Devotion of Kings, Bishops, &c, of the old Religion. Therefore it is safer to follow their Faith than venture our our Souls in a new rais'd Communion.

13. All ancient Pretenders to Reformation (*i. e.* all those that ever undertook to alter or amend the Church's Faith) were condemn'd by the ancient Church for *Hereticks*, and are acknowledg'd to have been such by *Protestants* themselves. Therefore there is just Reason to apprehend *Protestants* walking in the same Path may be involv'd in the same Misfortune.

14. In fine, *Protestants* to defend their Reformation, condemn'd at its first Appearance by the Church-Guides of divine Appointment, are forc'd to have Recourse to a Rule of Faith, which if allow'd of, would set all both ancient and modern *Hereticks* out of the Reach of Church Authority. They are forc'd to appeal to a Tribunal at which it is not possible that any Sectary should ever be condemn'd. Such a Rule, such a Tribunal is the Scripture, interpreted not by Authority of Church-Guides, but by every one's private Judgment: For this in effect is making every one's private Judgment the supreme Judge both of the Scripture and of all Controversies in Religion, and authorizing him to prefer his own Whimsies before the Judgment of the whole Church. Could it be consistent with the Wisdom and Providence of God to leave his Church without some more certain Means of deciding Controversies and maintaining Unity? No certainly. See 2 Pet. iii. v. 15, &c.

N.B. *That in the following Sheets, in quoting the Scripture, we have follow'd the common Protestant Bible, for the sake of a great Part of our Readers that may have been accustomed to it. Not designing thereby to declare our Approbation of that Version, much less to give it the Preference to our Catholick, Rhemish, and Doway Translations.*

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CATHOLICK FAITH, &c.

IN. N. with a firm Faith believe and profess all and every one of those Things which are contained in that Creed, which the Holy *Roman Church* maketh use of, to wit: I believe in one God, the *Father Almighty*, Maker of Heaven and Earth, of all Things visible and invisible: And in one Lord *Jesus Christ*, the only begotten *Son* of God, and born of the Father before all Ages; God of God; Light of Light; True God of the True God; Begotten, not Made, Consubstantial to the Father, by whom all Things were made. Who, for us Men, and for our Salvation, came down from Heaven, and was Incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin *Mary*, and was made Man. Was crucified also for us under *Pontius Pilate*; he suffer'd and was buried: And the third Day he rose again, according to the Scriptures: He ascended into Heaven; sits at the right Hand of the Father, and is to come again with Glory to judge the Living and the Dead; of whose Kingdom there shall be no End. And in the *Holy Ghost*, the Lord and Life-giver, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who, together with the Father and the Son, is adored and glorified, who
spoke

spoke by the Prophets. And [I believe] One, Holy, Catholick, and Apostolick Church: I confess one Baptism for the Remission of Sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the Dead, and the Life of the World to come. *Amen.*

I most steadfastly admit and embrace Apostolical and Ecclesiastical *Traditions*, and all other Observances and Constitutions of the same Church.

I also admit the holy *Scripture* according to that Sense, which our holy Mother, the Church, has held, and does hold, to which it belongs to judge of the true Sense and Interpretation of the Scriptures: Neither will I ever take and interpret them otherwise than according to the unanimous Consent of the Fathers.

I also profess, that there are truly and properly *Seven Sacraments* of the New Law, instituted by Jesus Christ our Lord, and necessary for the Salvation of Mankind, though not all for every one: To wit, *Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Order, and Matrimony*; and that they confer Grace: And that of these, *Baptism, Confirmation and Order*, cannot be reiterated without Sacrilege. I also receive and admit the received and approved *Ceremonies* of the Catholick Church, used in the solemn Administration of all the aforesaid Sacraments.

I embrace and receive all and every one of the Things, which have been defined and declared in the Holy Council of *Trent*, concerning *Original Sin and Justification*.

I profess likewise, that in the *Mass* there is offer'd to God a true, proper, and propitiatory Sacrifice for the Living and the Dead. And that in the most Holy Sacrament of the *Eucharist*, there is truly, really, and substantially, the Body and Blood, together with the Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ: And that there is made a Conversion of the whole Substance of the Bread into the Body, and of the whole Substance of the Wine into the Blood; which Conversion the

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Catholick Church calls *Transubstantiation*. I also confess, that under *either Kind* alone *Christ* is received whole and entire, and a true Sacrament.

I constantly hold, that there is a *Purgatory*, and that the Souls therein detain'd are helped by the Suffrages of the Faithful.

Likewise, that the *Saints* reigning together with *Christ*, are to be honoured and invocated, and that they offer Prayers to God for us, and that their *Relicks* are to be had in Veneration.

I most firmly assert, that the *Images* of *Christ*, of the Mother of God Ever-Virgin, and also of other *Saints*, ought to be had and retain'd, and that due Honour and Veneration is to be given them.

I also affirm, that the Power of *Indulgencies* was left by *Christ* in the Church, and that the Use of them is most wholesome to *Christian People*.

I acknowledge, the *Holy, Catholick, Apostolick, Roman Church*, for the Mother and Mistress of all Churches; and I promise true Obedience to the *Bishop of Rome*, Successor to *St. Peter* Prince of the Apostles, and Vicar of *Jesus Christ*.

I likewise undoubtedly receive and profess all other Things delivered, defined and declared by the sacred Canons and general Councils, and particularly by the holy Council of *Trent*. And I condemn, reject and anathematize all Things contrary thereto, and all Heresies which the Church has condemned, rejected and anathematized.

I *N. N.* do at this present freely profess, and sincerely hold this true Catholick Faith, without which no one can be saved: And I promise most constantly to retain and confess the same entire and unviolated, with God's Assistance, to the End of my Life.

*The GROUNDS of the CATHOLICK
DOCTRINE contain'd in the PROFES-
SION of FAITH of Pius IV.*

C H A P. I.

Of the Church.

*Q. WHAT is your Profession as to the Article of
the Church?*

*A. It is contain'd in those Words of the Nicene
Creed, I believe One Holy, Catholick, and Apostolick
Church.*

Q. What do you gather from these Words?

*A. 1. That Jesus Christ has always a true Church
upon Earth. 2. That this Church is always One by
the Union of all her Members in one Faith and
Communion. 3. That she is always pure and holy
in her Doctrine and Terms of Communion, and
consequently always free from pernicious Errors. 4.
That she is Catholick, that is Universal, by being
the Church of all Ages, and more or less of all
Nations. 5. That this church must have in her a
Succession from the Apostles, and a lawful Mission
derived from them. 6. Which follows from all the
rest, That this true Church of Christ cannot be any
of the Protestant Sects, but must be the ancient
Church communicating with the Pope or Bishop of
Rome.*

*SECT. I. That Christ has always a true
Church upon Earth.*

*Q. How do you prove that Christ has always a true
Church upon Earth?*

*A. From many plain Texts of Scripture, in which
it is promis'd or foretold that the Church or King-
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dom established by *Christ* should stand till the End of the World. *Mattbew* xvi, v. 18. *Thou art Peter* [i. e. a Rock] and upon this Rock will I build my Church, and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. *Matt.* xxviii. v. 19, 20. Go ye therefore and teach all Nations, baptizing them, &c. teaching them to observe all Things whatsoever I have commanded you: And behold I am with you always even to the End of the World. *Pf.* lxxii. v. 5, 7. They shall fear thee as long as the Sun and Moon endure, throughout all Generations.—In his Days [that is after the Coming of *Christ*] shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of Peace, so long as the Moon endureth. *Daniel* ii, v. 44. In the Days of these Kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom [the Church or Kingdom of *Christ*] which shall never be destroy'd—and it shall stand for ever.

Q. What other Proof have you for the perpetual Continuance of the Church of *Christ*?

A. The Creed, in which we profess to believe the Holy Catholick Church. For the Creed, and every Article thereof, must be always true; and therefore there must always be a holy Catholick Church.

Q. Can you prove that *Christ's* Church upon Earth is always Visible?

A. Yes, from many Texts of Scripture, as *Isaiah* ii. v. 1, 2, 3, &c. and *Micah* iv. v. 1, 2. Where the Church of *Christ* is described as a Mountain upon the Top of Mountains exposed to the View of all Nations flowing unto it. And *Daniel* ii. v. 35. as a great Mountain filling the whole Earth. *Matt.* v. v. 14. as a City set on a Hill which cannot be hid. *Isaiah* lx. v. 11, 12. as a City whose Gates shall be open continually; and shall not be shut Day nor Night, that Men may bring thither the Forces of the Gentiles, and that their Kings may be brought. Upon the Walls of which City God has set Watchmen, *Isaiah* lxii. v. 6. which shall never hold their Peace Day nor Night.

SECT. 2. *That Christ's Church upon Earth is always ONE.*

Q. How do you prove that Christ's Church upon Earth can be but One?

A. From many Texts of Scripture, Song of Solomon vi. v. 9. 10. My Dove, my undefiled is BUT ONE.—Fair as the Moon, clear as the Sun, terrible as an Army with Banners. John x. v. 16. Other Sheep I have which are not of this Fold (viz. the Gentiles) who were then divided from the Jews) them also I must bring, and they shall hear my Voice, and there shall be ONE FOLD AND ONE SHEPHERD. Ephes. iv. v. 4, 5. There is ONE Body and ONE Spirit, as you are call'd in ONE Hope of your Calling, ONE Lord, ONE Faith, ONE Baptism. In fine, as we have seen already, the Church of Christ is a Kingdom which shall stand for ever; and therefore must be always One. For every Kingdom divided against itself is brought to Desolation, and every City or House divided against itself shall not stand. Matt. xii. v. 25.

Q. May not Persons be saved in any Religion?

A. No certainly: St. Paul tells us, Heb. xi. v. 6. That without Faith it is impossible to please God. And St. Peter assures us, Acts iv. v. 12. That there is no other Name under Heaven given to Men by which we may be saved, but the Name of Jesus: And Christ himself tells us, Mark. xvi. v. 16. He that believeth not shall be damn'd. So that it is manifest from the holy Scripture that true Faith is necessary to Salvation. Now true Faith, in order to please God, and save our Souls, must be entire; that is to say, must believe without Exception all such Articles as by God and his Church are proposed to be believed: And he that voluntarily and obstinately disbelieveth any one of these Articles, is no less void of true saving Faith, than he that disbelieves them all. As St. James tells us, with regard to practical Duties, Chap. ii. v. 10. Whosoever shall keep the whole Law, yet offend

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in one Point, be is guilty of all. Hence St. Paul, Gal. v. v. 20. reckons *Heresies*, that is, false Religions, amongst those Works of the Flesh, of which he pronounces that they who do such Things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God: And God himself, *Isaiablx. v. 12.* tells his Church, *The Nation and Kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish.* See 1 Tim. chap. iv. v. 1.

Q. Can any one be out of the Way of Salvation without the Guilt of mortal Sin?

A. No: But all such as through Obstinacy, Negligence, or Indifference in Matters of Religion, will not hear the true Church and her Pastors, are Guilty of mortal Sin. Matt. xviii. v. 17. *If he neglect to hear the Church, let him be to thee as a Heathen and a Publican.* Luke x. v. 16. *He that heareth you [the Pastors of the Church] heareth me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth me; and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me.*

Q. But what do you think of those whose Conscience persuades them they are in the true Church?

A. If this Error of theirs proceed from *invincible Ignorance*, they may be excused from the Sin of Heresy; provided that in the sincere Disposition of their Hearts they would gladly embrace the Truth, if they could find it out, in spite of all Opposition of Interest, Passion, &c. But if this Error of their Conscience be not *invincible*, but such as they might discover if they were in Earnest in a Matter of so great Consequence; their Conscience will not excuse them; no more than St. Paul's, whilst out of blind Zeal he persecuted the Church; or the mistaken Conscience of the Jews, when putting the Disciples of Christ to Death they thought they did a Service to God. John xvi. v. 2. *For there is a Way that seemeth right unto a Man; but the End thereof are the Ways of Death.* Prov. xvi. v. 25. 2 Pet. chap. iii. v. 16 & 17.

Q. But does not the Scripture somewhere say, That a Remnant of all Religions shall be saved?

A. No: Though I have often heard such Words alledged by Protestants; they are not any where to

be found in Scripture, from the Beginning of *Genesis* to the End of *Revelation*. I suppose what has given Occasion to their Mistake must have been the Words of St. Paul, *Romans ix. v. 27.* where quoting *Isaiah x. v. 22.* he tells us, *Though the Number of the Children of Israel be as the Sand of the Sea, a Remnant (that is a small Part of them only) shall be saved: Which Remnant the Apostle himself explains Rom. xi. v. 5. of such of the Jewish Nation as at that Time by entring into the Church, were saved by God's Grace. But what is this to a Salvation of a Remnant of all Religions? A Doctrine so visibly contradicting the Scripture, that even the English Protestant Church herself, in the 18th of her 39 Articles, has declared them to be accursed who presume to maintain it.*

SECT. 3. *That the Church of Christ is always Holy in her Doctrine and Terms of Communion; and always free from pernicious Errors.*

Q. How do you prove this?

A. 1. Because as we have seen above from *Matt. 16. v. 18.* Our Lord *Jesus Christ*, who cannot tell us a Lie, has promised, that his *Church* should be built upon a *Rock* proof against all Floods and Storms, like the House of the wise Builder, of whom he speaks, *Matt. vii. v. 25.* and that *the Gates of Hell*, that is, the Powers of Darkness, should never prevail against it. Therefore the Church of *Christ* could never cease to be *Holy* in her Doctrine; could never fall into Idolatry, Superstition, or any heretical Errors whatsoever.

2dly. Because *Christ*, who is *the Way, the Truth and the Life*, *John xxiv. v. 6.* has promised, *Matt. xxviii. v. 19, 20.* to the Pastors and Teachers of his Church, to be with them always even to the End of the World.

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Therefore they could never go astray by pernicious Errors: For how could they go out of the right *Way of Truth and Life*, who are assured to have always in their Company for their Guide, him who is the *Way, the Truth, and the Life*.

3dly, Because our Lord has promised to these same Teachers, *John xiv. v. 16, 17. I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you FOR EVER, even the SPIRIT OF TRUTH: And v. 26. he assures them that this Spirit of Truth shall teach them all THINGS: And Chap. xvi. v. 13. that he shall guide them INTO ALL TRUTH.* How then could it be possible that the whole Body of these Pastors and Teachers of the Church, who by virtue of these Promises were to be for ever guided into all Truth by the Spirit of Truth, should at any Time fall from the Truth by Errors in Faith.

4thly, Because *Isaiab lix. v. 20, 21. God has made a solemn Covenant, that after the Coming of our Redeemer, his Spirit and his Words, that is, the whole Doctrine which this Redeemer was to teach, should be for ever maintained by his Church through all Generations. The Redeemer shall come to Zion, &c. This is my Covenant, with them saith the Lord: My Spirit which is upon thee, and my Words which I have put in thy Mouth, shall not depart out of thy Mouth, nor out of the Mouth of thy Seed, nor out of the Mouth of thy Seed's Seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever.*

5thly, Because the Church of Christ is represented, *Isaiab xxxv. v. 8. as a High-way, a Way of Holiness, a Way so plain and so secure, that even Fools should not err therein.* How then could it ever be possible that the Church herself should err?

6thly, Because pernicious Errors in Faith and Morals must needs be such as to provoke God's Indignation: Now God Almighty has promis'd to his Church, *Isaiab liv. v. 9, 10. As I have Sworn that the Waters of Noah should no more go over the Earth.*

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So have I Sworn that I would not be wrath with thee nor rebuke thee: For the Mountains shall depart, and the Hills be removed: But my Kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the Covenant of my Peace be removed, saith the Lord that bath Mercy on thee. So that as we are assured that there shall not be a second Flood, so we are that the Church of Christ shall never draw upon herself the Wrath of God, by teaching Errors contrary to Faith. In fine, the Church is call'd by St. Paul, 1 Tim. iii. v. 15. *The Pillar and Ground of the Truth*. Therefore she cannot uphold pernicious Errors. From all which it is manifest, that the Church of Christ is Infallible in all Matters relating to Faith, so that she can neither add nor retrench from what Christ taught.

SECT. 4. That the Church of Christ is Catholick or Universal.

Q. What do you understand by this?

A. Not only that the Church of Christ shall always be known by the Name of Catholick, by which she is call'd in the Creed; but that she shall also be truly Catholick or Universal, by being the Church of all Ages, and of all Nations, Matt. viii. v. 11.

Q. How do you prove that the true Church of Christ must be the Church of all Ages?

A. Because the true Church of Christ must be that which had its Beginning from Christ; and, as he promised, was to continue till the End of the World. See Sect. 1, and 3.

Q. How do you prove that the true Church of Christ must be the Church of all Nations?

A. From many Texts of Scripture, in which the true Church of Christ is always represented as a numerous Congregation spread through the World. Genesis xxii. v. 18. *In thy Seed shall all the Nations of the Earth be blessed*. Psalm ii. v. 8. *Ask of me, and I shall give thee the Heathen for thine Inheritance; and the*

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the uttermost Parts of the Earth for thy Possession. Ps. **xxii. v. 27.** All the Ends of the World shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the Kindreds of the Nations shall worship before thee. Is. **xlix. v. 6.** It is a light Thing that thou should'st be my Servant to raise up the Tribes of Jacob.—I will also give thee for a Light to the Gentiles, that thou may'st be my Salvation unto the End of the Earth. Is. **liv. v. 1, 2, 3.** Sing O Barren thou that did'st not bear, break forth into Singing and cry aloud thou that did'st not travail with Child; for more are the Children of the Desolate, than the Children of the married Wife, saith the Lord. Enlarge the Place of thy Tent, and let them stretch forth the Curtains of thine Habitation: Spare not, lengthen thy Cords, and strengthen thy Stakes: For thou shalt break forth on the right Hand and on the Left; and thy Seed shall inherit the Gentiles, &c. Mal. **i. v. 11.** From the rising of the Sun even to the going down of the same, my Name shall be great among the Gentiles. See Is. **ii. v. 2, 3.** Mic. **iv. v. 1, 2.** Dan. **ii. v. 31.** &c.—Matt. **xxviii. v. 19.** Go ye therefore and teach all NATIONS, baptizing, &c.

SECT. 5. That the Church of Christ must be Apostolical, by a Succession of her Pastors, and a lawful Mission derived from the Apostles.

Q. How do you prove this?

A. 1. Because only those that can derive their Lineage from the Apostles, are the Heirs of the Apostles: And consequently, they alone can claim a Right to the Scriptures, to the Administration of the Sacraments, or any Share in the Pastoral Ministry: 'Tis their proper Inheritance, which they have receiv'd from the Apostles, and the Apostles from Christ. As my Father hath sent me, even so I send you. John. **xx. v. 21.**

2dly, Because Christ promised to the Apostles and their Successors, that he would be with them always
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even to the End of the World. Matt. xxviii. v. 20. and that the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, should abide with them for ever. John xiv. v. 16, 17.

SECT. 6. *That Catholicks, and not Protestants are the true Church of Christ.*

Q. How do you prove that the Catholick Church in Communion with Rome is the true Church of Christ, rather than Protestants or other Sectaries?

A. From what has been already said in the foregoing Sections. For, 1st, The true Church of Christ can be no other than that which has always had a visible Being in the World ever since Christ's Time; as we have seen Sect. 1. She was founded by Christ himself, with express Promise, that the Gates of Hell should not prevail against her. Matt. xvi. v. 18. She is the Kingdom of Christ which shall never be destroy'd, Dan. ii. v. 44. Therefore the true Church of Christ, can be no other than the Catholick, which alone has always had a visible Being in the World ever since Christ's Time: Not the Protestant, nor any other modern Sect, which only came into the World since the Year 1500. For those that came into the World fifteen hundred Years after Christ, came into the World fifteen hundred Years too late to be the Religion of Christ.

2^{dly}, The true Church of Christ, in virtue of the Promises both of the Old and New Testament, was to continue Pure and Holy in her Doctrine and Terms of Communion in all Ages, even to the End of the World, as we have seen Sect. 3. and consequently, could never stand in need of a Protestant Reformation: Therefore that which was of old the true Church of Christ must still be so; and it is in vain to seek for the true Church amongst any of the Sects of Pretenders to Reformation; because they all build upon a wrong Foundation, that is, upon the Supposition that the Church of Christ was for many Ages gone astray.

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3dly, The true Church of *Christ* must be *Catholick* or *Universal*, she must not only be the Church of all Ages, but also more or less the Church of all Nations, as we have seen *Seet. 4.* She must be *Apostolical*, by a Succession and Mission derived from the Apostles as we also have seen *Seet. 5:* Now these Characters cannot agree to any of our modern Sects, but only to the old Religion, which alone is the Church of all Ages, and more or less of all Nations; and which descends in an uninterrupted Succession, continued in the same Communion from the Apostles down to these our Days. Therefore the old Religion alone is the true Church of *Christ*. Which can be but one and in one Communion, as we have seen *Seet. 2.*

C H A P. II.

Of Scripture and Tradition.

Q. WHAT is your Belief concerning the Scripture?

A. That it is to be received by all *Christians* as the infallible Word of God.

Q. Do you look upon the Scripture to be clear and plain in all Points necessary; that is, in all such Points wherein our Salvation is so far concern'd, that the misunderstanding and misinterpreting of it may endanger our eternal Welfare?

A. No: Because *St. Peter* assures us, *2 Pet. iii. v. 16.* That in *St. Paul's* Epistles there are some Things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, to their own Destruction.

Q. How then is this Danger to be avoided?

A. By taking the Meaning and Interpretation of the Scripture from the same Hand, from which we receive the Book itself, that is from the Church.

Q. Why may not every particular Christian have Liberty to interpret the Scripture according to his own private

vate Judgment, without regard to the Interpretation of the Church?

A. 1st, Because no Prophecy of the Scripture is of private Interpretation, 2 Pet. i. v. 20. 2^{dly}, Because as Mens Judgments are as different as their Faces, such Liberty as this must needs produce as many Religions almost as Men. 3^{dly}, Because Christ has left his Church and her Pastors and Teachers to be our Guides in all Controversies relating to Religion, and consequently in the Understanding of Holy Writ. Eph. iv. v. 11, 12, &c. He gave some Apostles, and some Prophets, and some Evangelists, and some Pastors and Teachers for the perfecting of the Saints, for the Work of the Ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ, till we all come in the Unity of the Faith, and of the Knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect Man, unto the Measure of the Stature of the Fulness of Christ. That we henceforth be no more Children toss'd to and fro, and carried about with every Wind of Doctrine by the slight of Men and cunning Craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the Truth in Love may grow up into him in all Things, which is the Head, even Christ. Hence St. John in his first Epistle, Chap. iv. v. 6. gives us this Rule, for the trying of Spirits. He that knoweth God, beareth us; [the Pastors of the Church] he that is not of God beareth not us: By this we know the Spirit of Truth, and the Spirit of Error.

Q. Why does the Church, in her Profession of Faith, oblige her Children never to take or interpret the Scripture otherwise than according to the unanimous Consent of the holy Fathers?

A. To arm them against Danger of Novelty and Error: Proverbs xxii. v. 28. Remove not the ancient Landmark which thy Fathers have set. For the Lips of a Priest shall keep Wisdom; and Law shall People ask from his Mouth, Mal. ii. v. 7.

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SECT. 2. *Of Apostolical and Ecclesiastical Traditions.*

Q. What do you mean by Apostolical Traditions?

A. All such Points of Faith or Church Discipline which were taught or establish'd by the Apostles, and have carefully been preserv'd in the Church ever since: as the Creed Mass-Rites, &c.

Q. What Difference is there between Apostolical and Ecclesiastical Traditions?

A. The Difference is this, that *Apostolical Traditions* are those which had their Origin or Institution from the Apostles: Such as Infants Baptism, the Lord's Day, receiving the Sacrament fasting, &c. *Ecclesiastical Traditions* are such as since had their Institution from the Church, as Holidays and Fasts ordained by the Church.

Q. How are we to know what Traditions are truly Apostolical and what not?

A. In the same Manner and by the same Authority by which we know what Scriptures are Apostolical, and what not. That is, by the Authority of the Apostolick Church-Guides, by the unerring Spirit of God, in the Councils of his Church.

Q. But why should not the Scripture alone be the Rule of our Faith, without having Recourse to Apostolical Traditions?

A. 1. Because without the Help of Apostolical Tradition, we cannot so much as tell what is Scripture and what not. 2. Because Infants Baptism and several other necessary Articles are either not at all contain'd in Scripture, or at least are not plain in the Scripture without the Help of Tradition.

Q. What Scripture can you bring in favour of Tradition?

A. Therefore Brethren stand fast, and hold the Traditions which ye have been taught, whether by Word or our Epistle, 2 Theff. ii. v. 15. Ask thy Father, and he will show thee, thy Elders, and they will tell thee, Deut.

xxxii. v. 7. See Psal. xix. v. 5, 6, 7. 1 Cor. xi. v. 2. 2 Theff. iii. v. 6. 2 Tim. i. v. 13. Cap. ii. v. 2. Cap. iii. v. 14

SECT. 3. *Of the Ordinances and Constitutions of the Church.*

Q. Why do you make Profession of admitting and embracing all the Ordinances and Constitutions of the Church?

A. Because Christ has so commanded. He that beareth you, beareth me, and he that despiseth you despiseth me, Luke x. v. 16. As my Father hath sent me, even so I send you, John xx. v. 21. Hence St. Paul, Heb. xiii. v. 17. tells us, Obey them that have the Rule over you and submit yourselves.

Q. Why does the Church command so many Holidays to be kept? Is it not enough to keep the Sunday Holy?

A. God in the old Law did not think it enough to appoint the weekly Sabbath, which was the Saturday: But also ordain'd several other Festivals, as that of the Passover in Memory of the Delivery of his People from the Egyptian Bondage, that of the Weeks or Pentecost, that of Tabernacles, &c. and the Church has done the same in the new Law to celebrate the Memory of the chief Mysteries of our Redemption, and to bless God in his Saints. And in this Protestants seem to agree with us, by appointing almost all the same Holidays in their Common Prayer-Book.

Q. Is it not said in the Law, Exod. xx. v. 9. Six Days shalt thou labour and do all thy Work, &c. Why then should the Church derogate from this Part of the Commandment?

A. This was to be understood in case no Holiday came in the Week; otherwise the Law would contradict itself, when in the 23d Chapter of Leviticus it appoints so many other Holidays besides the Sabbath,
with

with Command to abstain from all servile Work on them.

Q. As to fasting Days, do you look upon it sinful to eat Meat on those Days without Necessity.

A. Yes. Because it is a Sin to disobey the Church, If he neglect to hear the Church, let him be to thee as a Heathen and a Publican, Matt. xv. v. 17.

Q. Does not Christ say, Matt. xv. v. 11. That which goeth into the Mouth doth not defile the Man?

A. True. 'Tis not any Uncleanneſs in the Meat, as many antient Hereticks imagin'd, or any Dirt or Dust which may stick to it by eating it without first washing the Hands (of which Case our Lord speaks in the Text here quoted) which can defile the Soul: For every Creature of God is good, and whatsoever corporal Filth enters in at the Mouth is cast forth into the Draught: But that which defiles the Soul when a Person eats Meat on a fasting Day is the Disobedience of the Heart, in transgressing the Precept of the Church of God. In like manner when Adam eat of the forbidden Fruit, it was not the Apple which entered in by the Mouth, but the Disobedience to the Law of God which defiled him.

CHAP. III.

Of the Sacraments.

Q. WHAT do you mean by a Sacrament?

A. An Institution of Christ consisting in some outward Sign or Ceremony, by which Grace is given to the Soul of the worthy Receiver.

Q. How many such Sacraments do you find in Scripture?

A. These Seven, Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, (which Protestants call the Lord's Supper) Penance, Extreme Unction (or the anointing of the Sick) Holy Orders and Matrimony.

Q. What Scripture have you for Baptism?

A. John iii. v. 5. Except a Man be born of Water and of the Spirit he cannot Enter into the Kingdom of God. Matt. xxviii. v. 29. Go teach all Nations baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Q. How do you prove that this Commission given to the Apostles of baptizing all Nations, is to be understood of Baptism administred in Water?

A. From the Belief and Practice of the Church of Christ in all Ages, and of the Apostles themselves; who administred Baptism in Water: Acts viii. v. 36, 38. See here is Water, said the Eunuch to St. Philip, what does binder me to be baptized—— and they went down both into the Water; both Philip and the Eunuch; and he baptized him. Acts x. v. 47, 48. Can any Man forbid Water, said St. Peter, that these should not be baptized which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the Name of the Lord.

Q. What do you mean by Confirmation?

A. Confirmation is a Sacrament wherein by the Invocation of the Holy Ghost, and Imposition of the Bishop's Hands with the Unction of holy Chrism, a Person receives the Grace of the Holy Ghost, and a Strength in order to the Professing of his Faith.

Q. What Scripture have you for Confirmation?

A. Acts viii. v. 15, 17. Where Peter and John confirm'd the Samaritans. They pray'd for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost——Then laid they their Hands on them and they receiv'd the Holy Ghost.

Q. What Scripture have you for the Eucharist or Supper of the Lord.

A. We have the History of its Institution set down at large Matt. xxvi. Mark xiv. Luke xxii. 1 Cor. xi. And that this Sacrament was to be continued in the Church till the Lord comes, that is, till the Day of Judgment, we learn from St. Paul, 1 Cor. xi. v. 26.

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Q. What do you mean by the Sacrament of Penance?

A. The Confession of Sins with a sincere Repentance, and the Priest's Absolution.

Q. What Scripture have you to prove that the Bishops and Priests of the Church have Power to absolve the Sinner that confesses his Sins with a sincere Repentance?

A. John xx. v. 22. 23. Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whosoever Sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them: And whosoever Sins ye retain, they are retain'd. Matt. xviii. v. 18. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on Earth shall be bound in Heaven: And whatsoever ye shall loose on Earth shall be loos'd in Heaven. Which Texts Protestants seem to understand in the same Manner as we, since in their Common Prayer-Book, in the Order for the Visitation of the Sick, we find this Rubrick. Here shall the sick Person be moved to make a special Confession of his Sins, if he feel his Conscience troubled with any weighty Matter. After which Confession the Priest shall absolve him (if he humbly and heartily desire it) after this sort.

Our Lord Jesus Christ who hath left Power to his Church to absolve all Sinners; who truly repent and believe in him, of his great Mercy forgive thee thine Offences: And by his Authority committed to me, I absolve thee from all thy Sins, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Q. How do you prove from the Texts above quoted of John xx. v. 22, 23. and Matt. xviii. v. 18. The Necessity of the Faithful confessing their Sins to the Pastors of the Church, in order to obtain the Absolution and Remission of them?

A. Because in the Texts above quoted Christ has made the Pastors of his Church his Judges in the Court of Conscience, with Commission and Authority to bind or loose, to forgive or to retain Sins according to the Merits of the Cause, and the Disposition of the Penitents. Now as no Judge can pass Sentence without having a full Knowledge of the Cause; which cannot be had in this Kind of

Causes which regard Mens Consciences, but by their own Confession; it clearly follows that he who has made the Pastors of his Church, the Judges of Mens Consciences, has also laid an Obligation upon the Faithful to lay open the State of their Consciences to them, if they hope to have their Sins remitted. Nor would our Lord have given to his Church the Power of retaining Sins much less the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, Matt. xvi. v. 19. if such Sins as exclude Men from the Kingdom of Heaven might be remitted independently of the Keys of the Church.

Q. Have you any other Texts of Scripture which favour the Catholick Doctrine and Practice of Confession?

A. Yes. We find in the old Law, which was a Figure of the Law of Christ, that such as were infected with the Leprosy, which was a Figure of Sin, were obliged to shew themselves to the Priests, and subject themselves to their Judgment. See Levit. xiii. and xiv. and Matt. viii. v. 4. Which according to the holy Fathers was an Emblem of the Confession of Sins in the Sacrament of Penance. And in the same Law a special Confession of Sins was expressly prescribed. Levit. xvi. 21. and Numb. v. 6, 7. When a Man or Woman shall commit any Sin that Men commit, to do a Trespass against the Lord, and that Person be guilty: Then they shall confess their Sin which they have done. The same is prescribed in the New Testament, James v. ver. 16. Confess your Faults one to another; that is to the Priests or Elders of the Church, whom the Apostle had ordered to be called upon, ver. 14. And this was evidently the Practice of the first Christians. Acts xix. v. 18. Many that believed came and confess'd and shew'd their Deeds.

Q. What do you mean by Extreme Unction?

A. You have both the full Description and Proof of it James v. ver. 14, 15. Is any sick among you let him call the Elders (πρεσβυτερος the Priests) of the Church, and let them pray over him anointing him with

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Oil in the Name of the Lord: And the Prayer of Faith shall save the Sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed Sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Q. What is Holy Order?

A. A Sacrament instituted by *Christ* by which Bishops, Priests, &c. are consecrated to their respective Functions, and receive Grace to discharge them well.

Q. When did Christ institute the Sacrament of Holy Order?

A. At his last Supper when he made his Apostles Priests by giving them the Power of consecrating the Bread and Wine into his Body and Blood *Luke xxii. ver. 19. Do this in Remembrance of me.* To which he added after his Resurrection the Power of forgiving the Sins of the Penitent, *John xx. v. 22, 23.*

Q. What Scripture Proof have you that Holy Orders give Grace to those that receive them worthily?

A. The Words of *St. Paul* to *Timothy*, whom he had ordain'd Priest by Imposition of Hands, *2 Tim. i. v. 6. Stir up the Gift (τὸ χάρισμα) of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my Hands;* and *1 Tim. iv. v. 14. Neglect not the Gift that is in thee, which was given thee by Prophecy, with the laying on of the Hands of the Presbytery.*

Q. When was Matrimony instituted?

A. It was first instituted by God Almighty in Paradise between our first Parents; and this Institution was confirm'd by *Christ* in the new Law, *Matt. xix. v. 4, 5, 6. Where he concludes, What God hath join'd together let no Man put asunder.*

Q. How do you prove that Matrimony is a Sacrament?

A. Because it is a Conjunction made and sanctified by God himself, and not to be dissolved by any Power of Man; as being a sacred Sign or mysterious Representation of the indissoluble Union of *Christ* and his Church. *Lpbes; v. ver. 31, 32. For this Cause*

Cause shall a Man leave his Father and Mother, and shall be join'd unto his Wife, and they two shall be one Flesh. This is a great Mystery μυστήριον, a Sacrament) but I speak concerning Christ and the Church, eis Χριστον καὶ εἰς τὴν ἐκκλησίαν, in Christ and in the Church.

Q. Why does the Church not allow of the Marriage of the Clergy?

A. Because upon their entering into Holy Orders, they make a Vow or solemn Promise to God and the Church to live continently; now the Breach of such a Vow as this would be a great Sin, witness St. Paul, 1 Tim. v. ver. 11, 12. where speaking of Widows that are for marrying after having made such a Vow as this, he says, they have Damnation because they have cast off their first Faith, that is their solemn Engagement made to God.

Q. But why does the Church receive none to Holy Orders, but those that make this Vow?

A. Because she does not think it proper that they who by their Office and Functions ought to be wholly devoted to the Service of God, and the Care of Souls, should be diverted from these Duties by the Distractions of a married life. 1 Cor. vii. v. 32, 33. He that is unmarried careth for the Things that belong to the Lord how he may please the Lord. But he that is married careth for the Things that are of the World, how he may please his Wife.

Q. Why does the Church make use so many Ceremonies in administering the Sacraments?

A. To stir up Devotion in the People, and Reverence to the sacred Mysteries; to instruct the Faithful concerning the Effects and Graces given by the Sacraments; and to perform Things relating to God's Honour and the Salvation of Souls with a becoming Decency.

Q. Have you any Warrant from Scripture for the use of such Ceremonies?

A. Yes: We have the Example of Christ, who frequently used the like Ceremonies. For Instance, in

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In curing the Man that was deaf and dumb, *Mark vii. v. 33, 34.* In curing him that was born blind, *John ix. v. 6, and 7.* In breathing upon his Apostles when he gave them the Holy Ghost, *John xx. v. 22, &c.*—The Use of Lights, holy Water, Incense, Chrysm, Proceffioning, &c. are from the Apostles as well as the old Law-Rites.

C H A P. IV.

Of the Real Presence and Transubstantiation.

Q. **W**HAT is the Doctrine of the Catholick Church in relation to this Article?

A. We believe and profess, That in the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, there is truly, really, and substantially the Body and Blood together with the Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. And that there is a Conversion or Change of the whole Substance of the Bread into his Body, and of the whole Substance of the Wine into his Blood: Which Conversion or Change the Catholick Church calls Transubstantiation.

Q. What Proofs have you for this?

A. 1st, *Matt. xxvi. v. 26.* As they were eating, Jesus took Bread and bless'd it, and brake it and gave it to the Disciples and said, take, eat; THIS IS MY BODY. And he took the Cup, and gave Thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it, FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. *Mark xiv. v. 22, 24.* Take eat, this is my Body—This is my Blood of the New Testament which is shed for many, *Luke xxii. v. 20.* This is my Body which is given for you: This do in Remembrance of me—This Cup is the New Testament in my Blood which is shed for you.

1 Cor. xi. v. 24, 25. *Take eat, this is my Body which is broken for you.—This Cup is the New Testament in my Blood.* Which Words of Christ repeated in so many Places cannot be verified, without offering Violence to the Text, any other way than by a real Change of the Bread and Wine into his Body and Blood.

2dly, 1 Cor. x. v. 16. *The Cup of Blessing which we bless, is it not the Communion of the Blood of Christ? The Bread which we break, is it not the Communion of the Body of Christ?* Which Interrogation of the Apostle is certainly equivalent to an Affirmation; and evidently declares that in the blessed Sacrament we really receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

3dly, 1 Cor. xi. v. 27, 29. *Whosoever shall eat this Bread, or drink the Cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be GUILTY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD.—He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh Damnation to himself, NOT DISCERNING THE BODY OF OUR LORD.* Now how should a Person be guilty of the Body and Blood of the Lord, by receiving unworthily; if what he received were only Bread and Wine, and not the Body and Blood of our Lord? Or where should be the Crime of not discerning the Body of our Lord, if the Body of our Lord were not there?

4thly, John vi. v. 51, &c. *The Bread that I will give is my Flesh, which I will give for the Life of the World. The Jews therefore strove amongst themselves, saying, How can this Man give us his Flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the Flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his Blood, ye have no Life in you. Whoso eateth my Flesh, and drinketh my Blood, hath eternal Life, and I will raise him up at the last Day. FOR MY FLESH IS MEAT INDEED, AND MY BLOOD IS DRINK INDEED. He that eateth my Flesh, and drinketh my Blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: So he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that Bread*

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Bread which came down from Heaven, not as your Fathers did eat Manna and are dead: He that eateth of this Bread shall live for ever.

Hence the Protestants in their Catechism in the Common Prayer-Book are forc'd to acknowledge, *that the Body and Blood of Christ are verily and indeed taken and receiv'd by the Faithful in the Lord's Supper.* Now how that can be verily and indeed taken and receiv'd, which is not verily and indeed there, is a greater Mystery than Transubstantiation.

*The literal Sense is hard to Flesh and Blood:
But Nonsense never can be understood.*

Dryden Hind. and Pantb.

Q. Are we not commanded, Luke xxii. v. 19. to receive the Sacrament in Remembrance of Christ?

A. Yes we are: And St. Paul, 1 Cor. xi. v. 26. lets us know what it is, that is to be the Object of our Remembrance, when we receive, when he tells us ye do shew (or shew forth) the Lord's Death till he comes. But this Remembrance is no ways opposite to the real Presence of Christ's Body and Blood: On the contrary, what better Remembrance can there be of Christ's Death and Passion, than to receive under the sacramental Veils the same Body and Blood in which he suffer'd for us?

Q. Why then do you blame Protestants for taking the Sacrament in Remembrance of Christ?

A. We don't blame them for taking it in Remembrance of him: But we blame them for taking it as a bare Remembrance, so as to exclude the Reality of his Body and Blood; that is, we blame them for taking the Remembrance, and leaving out the Substance; whereas the Words of Christ require that they should acknowledge both.

Q. But how is it possible that the Sacrament should contain the real Body and Blood of Christ?

A. Because nothing is impossible to the Almighty; and it is the highest Rashness, not to say Blasphemy,

phemy, for poor Worms of the Earth to dispute the Power of God.

CHAP. V.

Of Communion in one Kind.

Q. *WHAT is the Doctrine of the Church as to this Point?*

A. *We profess that under either Kind alone Christ is received whole and entire, and a true Sacrament.*

Q. *What Proof have you for this?*

A. Because, as we have seen in the foregoing Chapter, the Bread by Consecration is truly and really changed into the Body of *Christ*, and the Wine into his Blood: Now both Faith and Reason tell us, that the living Body of the Son of God cannot be without his Blood, nor his Blood without his Body: Nor his Body and Blood without his Soul and Divinity. 'Tis true he shed his Blood for us in his Passion; and his Soul at his Death was parted from his Body: But now he is risen from the Dead immortal and impassible, and can shed his Blood no more, nor die any more. *Christ being raised from the Dead, says the Apostle, Rom. vi. v. 9. dieth no more; Death hath no more Dominion over him.* Therefore whosoever receives the Body of *Christ*, receives *Christ* himself whole and entire, there is no receiving him by Parts.

Q. *But does not Christ say, John vi. v. 53. Except ye eat the Flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his Blood, ye have no Life in you?*

A. True: But according to the *Catholic* Doctrine we do this, tho' we receive under one Kind alone, because under either Kind we receive both the Body and Blood of *Christ*: Whereas our Adversaries, that make this Objection, receive neither
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one nor the other, but only a little Bread and Wine. Besides this Objection does not sound well in *Protestants* Mouths, because they say those Words of *Christ* were not spoken of the Sacrament, but only of Faith.

Q. Are not all Christians commanded to drink of the Cup, Matt. xxvi. v. 27. Drink ye all of it.

A. No: That Command was only address'd to the twelve Apostles, who were the all that were then present, and they all drank of it, Mark xiv. v. 23.

Q. How do you prove that those Words are not to be understood as a Command directed to all Christians?

A. Because the Church of *Christ*, which is the best Interpreter of his Word, never understood them so; and therefore from the very Beginning, on many Occasions she gave the Holy Communion in one Kind, for Instance, to Children, to the Sick, to the Faithful in Time of Persecution, to be carried Home with them, &c. as appears from the most certain Monuments of Antiquity.

Q. But are not the Faithful thus deprived of a great Part of the Grace of this Sacrament?

A. No: Because under one Kind they receive the same as they would do under both; inasmuch as they receive *Christ* himself whole and entire, the Author and Fountain of all Graces.

Q. Why then should the Priest in the Mass receive in both Kinds, any more than the rest of the Faithful?

A. Because the Mass being a Sacrifice, in which, by the Institution of our Lord, the shedding of his Blood and his Death was to be in a lively Manner represented; it is requisite that the Priest, who as the Minister of *Christ* offers this Sacrifice, should, for the more lively representing of the Separation of *Christ*'s Blood from his Body, consecrate and receive in both Kinds, as often as he says Mass. Whereas at other Times, neither Priest, nor Bishop, nor Pope himself, even upon their Death-bed, receives any otherwise than the rest of the Faithful, viz. in one Kind only.

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Q. Have you any Texts of Scripture that favour Communion in one Kind?

A. Yes: 1st, All such Texts as promise everlasting Life to them that receive, tho' but in one Kind, as John vi. v. 51. The Bread that I will give is my Flesh, which I will give for the Life of the World. v. lviii. He that eateth me, even he shall live by me. v. lviii. He that eateth of this Bread shall live for ever.

2dly, All such Texts as make mention of the Faithful receiving the Holy Communion, under the Name of Breaking of Bread, without any mention of the Cup. As, Acts. ii. v. 42. They continued stedfastly in the Apostles Doctrine and Fellowship, and in breaking of Bread, and in Prayers. v. xlvi. Continuing daily with one accord in the Temple, and breaking Bread from House to House. Acts xx. v. 7. Upon the first Day of the Week, when the Disciples came together to break Bread. Luke xxiv. v. 30, 31. He took Bread and blessed it, and brake and gave to them, and their Eyes were open'd, and they knew him, and he vanish'd out of their Sight. 1 Cor. x. v. 17. We being many, are one Bread, and one Body, for we are all Partakers of that one Bread.

3dly, 1 Cor. xi. v. 27. Where the Apostle declares, that whosoever receives under either Kind unworthily, is guilty both of the Body and Blood of Christ. Whosoever shall eat this Bread, or drink (in wine) this Cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the Body and Blood of our Lord: Where the Protestant Translators have evidently corrupted the Text, by putting in, and drink, instead of, or drink, as it is in the Original.

Q. What are the Reasons why the Church does not give the Communion to all her Children in both Kinds?

A. 1. Because of the Danger of spilling the Blood of Christ, which could hardly be avoided, if all were to receive the Cup. 2dly, Because considering how soon Wine decays, the Sacrament could not well be kept for the Sick in both Kinds. 3dly, Because some
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Constitutions can neither endure the Taste nor Smell of Wine. 4^{thly}, Because true Wine, in some Countries, is very had to be met with. 5^{thly}, In fine, in Opposition to those Hereticks that deny that *Christ* is received whole and entire under either Kind.

C H A P. VI.

Of the Mass.

Q. WHAT is the Catholick Doctrine as to the Mass?

A. That in the Mass there is offer'd to God a true, proper, and propitiatory Sacrifice for the Living and the Dead.

Q. What do you mean by the Mass?

A. The Consecration and Oblation of the Body and Blood of Christ, under the sacramental Veils, or Appearances of Bread and Wine; so that the Mass was instituted by Christ himself at his last Supper: Christ himself said the first Mass, and ordain'd that his Apostles and their Successors should do the like. Do this in Remembrance of me, Luke xxii.

Q. What do you mean by a propitiatory Sacrifice?

A. A Sacrifice for obtaining Mercy, or by which God is moved to Mercy.

Q. How do you prove that the Mass is such a Sacrifice?

A. Because in the Mass Christ himself, as we have seen, cap. 4. is really present, and by Vertue of the Consecration is there exhibited and presented to the eternal Father under the sacramental Veils, which by their separate Consecration represent his Death. Now what can more move God to Mercy, than the Oblation of his only Son there really present, and under this Figure of Death, representing to his Father that Death which he suffer'd for us?

Q. What Scripture do you bring for this?

A. The Words of Consecration, as they are related by St. Luke, cap. xxii. v. 19, 20. *This is my Body, which is given for you.—This Cup is the New Testament in my Blood, which (Cup) is shed for you.* For if the Cup be shed for us, that is, for our Sins, it must needs be *Propitiatory*, at least by applying to us the Fruits of the bloody Sacrifice of the Cross.

Q. What other Texts of the Scripture do the Fathers apply to the Sacrifice of the Mass.

A. 1. The Words of God, in the first Chapter of the Prophet *Malachai*, v. 10, 11. Where rejecting the *Jewish* Sacrifices, he declares his Acceptance of that Sacrifice, or *pure Offering*, which should be made to him in every Place among the *Gentiles*. 2dly, Those Words of the Psalmist, *Pf. cx. v. 4. Thou art a Priest for ever according to the Order of Melchisedech*: Why according to the Order of *Melchisedech*, say the holy Fathers, but by reason of the Sacrifice of the Eucharist prefigur'd by that Bread and Wine, offer'd by *Melchisedech*, Gen. xiv. v. 18?

Q. Why does the Church celebrate the Mass in the Latin, which the People for the most Part does not understand?

A. 1. Because it is the ancient Language of the Church, used in the public Liturgy in all Ages in the western Parts of the World. 2dly, For a greater Uniformity in the public Worship; that so a *Christian*, in whatsoever Country he chanceth to be, may still find the Liturgy performed in the same Manner, and in the same Language, to which he is accustomed at home. 3dly, To avoid the Changes, which all vulgar Languages are daily exposed to. 4thly, Because the Mass being a Sacrifice, which the Priest, as Minister of *Christ*, is to offer; and the Prayers of the Mass being mostly fitted for this End, it is enough that they be in a Language which he understands. Nor is this any ways injurious to the People, who are instructed to accompany him in every Part of this Sacrifice, by Prayers accommodated

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red to their Devotion, which they have in their ordinary Prayer-Books.

Q. What is the best Manner of bearing Mass.

A. The Mass being instituted for a standing Memorial of *Christ's* Death and Passion, and being in Substance the same Sacrifice as that which *Christ* offer'd upon the Cross, because both the Priest and the Victim is the same *Jesus Christ*: There can be no better Manner of hearing Mass, than by meditating on the Death and Passion of *Christ* there represented; and putting one's self in the same Dispositions of Faith, Love, Repentance, &c. as we should have endeavour'd to excite in ourselves, had we been present at his Passion and Death on Mount Calvary.

Q. What are the Ends for which this Sacrifice is offer'd to God?

A. Principally these Four, which both Priest and People ought to have in View. 1. For God's own Honour and Glory. 2. In Thanksgiving for all his Blessings conferr'd on us through *Jesus Christ* our Lord. 3. In Satisfaction for our Sins thro' his Blood. 4. For obtaining Grace, and all necessary Blessings from God.

CHAP. VII.

Of Purgatory.

Q. WHAT is the Doctrine of the Church, as to this Point?

A. We constantly hold that there is a Purgatory; and that the Souls therein detained are helped by the Suffrages of the Faithful: That is, by the Prayers and Alms offer'd for them, and principally by the holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Q. What do you mean by Purgatory?

A. A middle State of Souls, which depart this Life in God's Grace, yet not without some lesser Stains or Guilt of Punishment, which retards them from entering Heaven. But as to the particular Place where these Souls suffer, or the Quality of the Torments which they suffer, the Church has decided nothing.

Q. What sort of Christians then go to Purgatory?

A. 1. Such as die guilty of lesser Sins, which we commonly call *Venial*; as many *Christians* do, who either by sudden Death, or otherwise, are taken out of this Life before they have repented for these ordinary Failings. 2dly, Such as having been formerly Guilty of greater Sins, have not made full Attainment for them to the divine Justice.

Q. Why do you say that those who die guilty of lesser Sins go to Purgatory?

A. Because such as depart this Life before they have repented for these venial Frailties and Imperfections, cannot be supposed to be condemned to the eternal Torments of Hell, since the Sins of which they are guilty are but small, which even God's best Servants are more or less liable to. Nor can they go strait to Heaven in this State, because the Scripture assures us, *Revel. xxi. v. 27. There shall in no wise enter thither any Thing that defileth.* Now every Sin, be it never so small, certainly defileth the Soul. Hence our Saviour assures us, that we are to render an Account even for every idle Word, *Matt. xii. v. 36.*

Q. Upon what then do you ground your Belief of Purgatory?

A. Upon Scripture, Tradition, and Reason.

Q. How upon Scripture?

A. Because the Scripture in many Places assures us, that God will render to every one according to his Works. *Pf. lxii. v. 12. Matt. xvi. v. 27. Rom. ii. v. 6. Revel. xxii. v. 12.* Now this would not be true, if there were no such Thing as Purgatory; for how

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would God render to every one according to his Works, if such as die in the Guilt of any, even the least Sin, which they have not taken care to blot out by Repentance, would nevertheless go strait to Heaven?

Q. Have you any other Texts which the Fathers and Ecclesiastical Writers interpret of Purgatory?

A. Yes: 1 Cor. iii. v. 13, 14, 15. Every Man's Work shall be made manifest. For the Day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by Fire. And the Fire shall try every Man's Work of what sort is it. If any Man's Work abide which he hath built thereupon [that is, upon the Foundation, which is Jesus Christ, v. 11.] he shall receive a Reward. If any Man's Work shall be burnt, he shall suffer Loss: BUT HE HIMSELF SHALL BE SAVED YET SO AS BY FIRE. From which Text it appears, that such as both in their Faith, and in the Practice of their Lives, have stuck to the Foundation, which is Christ Jesus, so as not to forfeit his Grace by mortal Sin; tho' they have otherwise been guilty of great Imperfections, by building Wood, Hay, and Stubble (v. 12.) upon this Foundation; it appears, I say, that such as these, according to the Apostle, must pass through a fiery Trial, at the Time that every Man's Work shall be made manifest; which is not till the next Life; and that they shall be saved indeed, yet so as by Fire, that is, by passing first thro' Purgatory.

2dly, Matt. v. ver. 25, 26. Agree with thine Adversary quickly, whilst thou art in the way with him: Lest at any Time the Adversary deliver thee to the Judge, and the Judge deliver thee to the Officer, and thou be cast into Prison. Verily I say unto thee, thou shalt by no Means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost Farthing. Which Text St. Cyprian, one of the most ancient Fathers, understands of the Prison of Purgatory. Epist. 52, ad Antonianum.

3dly, Matt. xii. v. 32. Whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this World, neither in the World to come. Which

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last Words plainly imply, that some Sins which are not forgiven in this World, may be forgiven in the World to come : Otherwise why should our Saviour make any mention of Forgiveness in the World to come. Now if there may be Forgiveness of Sins in the World to come, there must be a Purgatory, for in Hell there is no Forgiveness, and in Heaven no Sin.

Besides, a middle Place is also implied, 1 *Pet.* iii. v. 18, 19, 20. Where *Christ* is said by his Spirit to have gone and preached to the Spirits in Prison, which some Time were Disobedient, &c. Which Prison could be no other than Purgatory : For as to the Spirits that were in the Prison of Hell, *Christ* certainly did not go to preach to them.

Q. How do you ground the Belief of Purgatory upon Tradition ?

A. Because both the *Jewish* Church long before our Saviour's Coming ; and the *Christian* Church, from the very Beginning, in all Ages, and all Nations, has offer'd Prayers and Sacrifice for the Repose and Relief of the Faithful departed : As appears in regard to the *Jews*, from 2 *Machab.* 12. where this Practice is approved of, which Books of *Machabees*, the Church, says St. *Augustin*, L. 18. de *Civ. Dei*, c. 36. accounts Canonical, tho' the *Jews* do not. And in regard to the *Christian* Church, the same is evident from all the Fathers, and the most ancient Liturgies. Now such Prayers as these evidently imply the Belief of a Purgatory : For Souls in Heaven stand in no need of our Prayers, and those in Hell cannot be better'd by them.

Q. How do you ground the Belief of Purgatory upon Reason ?

A. Because Reason clearly teaches these two Things, 1st, That all and every Sin, how small soever, deserves Punishment. 2^{dly}, That some Sins are so small, either thro' the Levity of the Matter, or for want of full Deliberation in the Action, as not to deserve eternal Punishment. From whence

it is plain that besides the Place of eternal Punishment which we call Hell, there must be also a Place of temporal Punishment for such as die in little Sins, and this we call Purgatory.

C H A P. VIII.

Of the Veneration and Invocation of Saints.

Q *WHAT is the Catholick Doctrine touching the Veneration and Invocation of Saints?*

A. We are taught, 1. That there is an Honour and Veneration due to the Angels and Saints. 2dly, That they offer up Prayers to God for us. 3dly, That it is good and profitable to invoke them, that is, to have recourse to their Intercession and Prayers, 4thly, That their Relicks are to be had in Veneration.

SECT. I. *Of the Veneration of the Angels and Saints.*

Q *How do you prove that there is an Honour and Veneration due to the Angels and Saints?*

A. Because they are God's Angels and Saints, that is to say, most faithful Servants, Courtiers, Friends and Favourites of the King of Kings, who having highly honoured him, are now highly honoured by him, as he has promised, *1 Sam. 2. v. 30. Them that honour me I will honour.*

2dly, Because they have received from their Lord most eminent and supernatural Gifts of *Grace and Glory*, which make them truly worthy of our Honour and Veneration; and therefore we give it them as their

their due, according to that of the Apostle, *Rom. xiii. v. 7. Honour to whom Honour is due.*

3dly, Because the Angels of God are our Guardians, Tutors and Governors; as appears from many Texts of Scripture, *Psal. xci. v. 11, 12. He shall give his Angels Charge over thee to keep thee in all thy Ways: They shall bear thee up in their Hands, lest thou dash thy Foot against a Stone. S. Matt. xviii. v. 10. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you that in Heaven their Angels do always behold the Face of my Father that is in Heaven. Heb. i. v. 14. Are they not all ministering Spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be Heirs of Salvation.* 'Tis therefore evidently the Will of God that we should have a religious Veneration for these heavenly Guardians. *Exodus xxiii. v. 20, 21. Behold I send an Angel before thee to keep thee in the Way, and to bring thee into the Place which I have prepared: Beware of him, and obey his Voice, provoke him not, for my Name is in him.*

4thly, Because God has promis'd to his Saints a Power over all Nations. *Rev. ii. v. 26, 27. He that overcometh and keepeth my Words unto the End, to him will I give Power over the Nations, and he shall rule them with a Rod of Iron—even as I received of my Father. Rev. v. v. 10. Thou hast made us unto our God Kings and Priests, and we shall reign on the Earth.* Therefore all Nations ought to honour the Saints as having receiv'd from God this kingly Power over them.

5thly, Because we have Instances in Scripture of Honour and Veneration paid to the Angels by the Servants of God: See *Joshua v. v. 14, 15.*

6thly, Because the Church in all Ages has paid this Honour and Veneration to Saints by erecting Churches and keeping Holidays in their Memory: A Practice which the *English* Protestants have also retained.

Q. Do you then worship the Angels and Saints as Gods, or give them the Honour that belongs to God alone?

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A. No, God forbid. For this would be a high Treason against his divine Majesty.

Q. What is the Difference between the Honour which you give to God, and that which you give to the Saints?

A. There is no Comparison between the one and the other. We honour God with a sovereign Honour, as the supreme Lord and Creator of all things, as our first Beginning and our last End: We believe in him alone; we hope in him alone; we love him above all things; to him alone we pay our Homage of divine Adoration, Praise and Sacrifice. But as for the Saints and Angels we only reverence them with an inferior Honour, as belonging to him, for his sake, and upon account of the Gifts which they have received from him.

Q. Do you not give a particular Honour to the Virgin Mary?

A. Yes, we do by reason of her eminent Dignity of Mother of God, for which all Generations shall call her blessed, Luke i. v. 48: As also by reason of that Fulness of Grace which she enjoyed in this Life, and the sublime Degree of Glory to which she is raised in Heaven. But still even this Honour which we give to her is infinitely inferior to that which we pay to God, to whom she is indebted for all her Dignity Grace and Glory.

SECT. I. *That the Saints and Angels pray to God for us.*

Q. How do you prove this?

A. 1st, From Zechariah i. v. 12. Where the Prophet heard an Angel praying for Jerusalem and the Cities of Judah. The Angel of the Lord answered and said, O Lord of Hosts how long wilt thou not have Mercy on Jerusalem and on the Cities of Judah, against which thou hast had Indignation these threescore and ten Years?

2dly, From Rev. v. v. 8. The four and twenty Elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them

them Harps and golden Vials full of Odours which are the Prayers of Saints. And Rev. viii. v. 4: *The Smoke of the Incense with the Prayers of the Saints ascended up before God out of the Angels Hand.* From which Texts it is evident that both the Saints and Angels offer up to God the Prayers of the Saints, that is of the Faithful upon Earth.

3dly, Because we profess in the Creed the Communion of Saints; and St. Paul, Heb. xii. v. 22, 23, 24. Speaking to the Children of the Church of Christ, tells them, that they have a Fellowship with the Saints in Heaven; *You are come unto mount Sion, and unto the City of the living God the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable Company of Angels, to the general Assembly and Church of the First-born which are written in Heaven, and to the Spirits of just Men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator, &c.* Therefore the Children of the Church of Christ upon Earth are fellow Members with the Saints in Heaven of the same Body under the same Head which is Christ Jesus. Hence the same Apostle Galat. iv. v. 26. calls the heavenly Jerusalem our Mother, and Ephes. ii. v. 19. tells us that we are fellow Citizens with the Saints. Therefore the Saints in Heaven have a Care and Solitude for us as being Members of the same Body, it being the Property of the Members of the same Body to be solicitous for one another, 1 Cor. xii. v. 25, 26: Consequently the Saints in Heaven pray for us.

4thly, Because according to the Doctrine of the Apostle, 1 Cor. xiii. v. 8. It is the Property of the Virtue of Charity not to be lost in Heaven, as Faith and Hope are there lost; *Charity, saith St. Paul, never faileth.* On the contrary this heavenly Virtue is perfected in Heaven, where by seeing God Face to Face the Soul is enflamed with a most ardent Love for God; and for his sake loves exceedingly his Children, her Brethren here below: How then can the Saints in Heaven, having so perfect a Charity for us, not pray for us, since the very first Thing that Charity prompts

prompts a Person to do, is to seek to succour and assist those whom he loves ?

5thly, Because we find, *Luke xvi. v. 27, 28.* The rich Glutton in Hell petitioning in favour of his five Brethren here upon Earth : How much more are we to believe that the Saints in Heaven interceed for their Brethren here ?

6thly, Because, *Rev. vi. v. 10.* The Souls of the Martyrs pray for Justice against their Persecutors who had put them to Death : How much more do they pray for Mercy for the faithful Children of the Church ?

7thly, In fine, because our Lord, *Luke xvi. v. 9.* tells us, *make to yourselves Friends of the Mammon of Urighteousness ; that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting Habitations.* Where he gives us to understand, that the Servants of God, whom we have help'd by our Alms, after they themselves have got to Heaven, help and assist us to enter into that everlasting Kingdom.

SECT. 3. *Of the Invocation of Saints.*

Q. What do you mean by the Invocation of Saints ?

A. I mean such Petitions or Requests as are made to desire their Prayers and Intercession for us.

Q. Do Catholicks pray to Saints ?

A. If by *praying to Saints*, you mean addressing ourselves to them as to the Authors or Disposers of Grace and Glory, or, in such Manner as to suppose that they have any Power to help us independently of God's good Will and Pleasure, we don't *pray to them* : But condemn all such Addresses as superstitious and impious. But if by *praying to Saints* you mean no more than desiring them to pray to God for us ; in this Sense we hold it both good and profitable to *pray to the Saints* ?

Q. How do you prove that it is good and profitable to desire the Saints and Angels in Heaven to pray to God for us?

A. Because it is good and profitable to desire the Servants of God here upon Earth to pray for us: For the Prayer of a righteous Man availeth much, James v. v. 16. Moses by his Prayers obtained Mercy for the Children of Israel, *Exod. xxxii. v. 11, 14.* And Samuel by his Prayers defeated the Philistines, *1 Sam. vii. v. 8, 9, 10.* Hence St. Paul in almost all his Epistles desires the Faithful to pray for him, *Rom. xv. v. 30. Eph. vi. v. 18, 19. 1 Thes. v. v. 25. Heb. xiii. v. 13.* And God himself, *Job xlii. v. 8.* commanded *Eliphaz* and his two Friends to go to *Job*, that *Job* should pray for them, promising to accept of his Prayers. Now if it be acceptable to God, and good and profitable to ourselves to seek the Prayers and Intercession of God's Servants here on Earth, must it not be much more so to seek the Prayers and Intercession of the Saints in Heaven; since both their Charity for us, and their Credit and Interest with God is much greater now than when they were here upon Earth.

Q. But does it not argue a want of Confidence in the infinite Goodness of God and the superabounding Merits of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, to address ourselves to the Saints for their Prayers and Intercession?

A. No more than to address ourselves to our Brethren here below, as Protestants do when they desire the Prayers of the Congregation; since we desire no more of the Saints, than what we desire of our Brethren here below, viz. that they would pray for us and with us to the infinite Goodness of God, who is both our Father and their Father, our Lord and their Lord, by the Merits of his Son *Jesus Christ*, who is both our Mediator and their Mediator. For tho' the Goodness of God and the Merits of *Christ* be infinite, yet as this is not to exempt us from frequent Prayer for ourselves, so much recommended in Scripture, so 'tis no Reason for our being backward in

in seeking the Prayers of others whether in Heaven or Earth, that so God may have the Honour and we the Benefit of so many more Prayers.

Q. But is there no Danger by asking thus of giving to the Saints the Honour which belongs to God alone?

A. No; 'tis evident that to desire the Prayers and Intercession of the Saints is by no Means giving them an Honour which belongs to God alone: So far from it, that it would even be a Blasphemy to beg of God to pray for us; because whosoever desires any one to pray for him for the obtaining of a Grace or Blessing, supposes the Person to whom he thus addresses himself, to be inferior and dependent of some other by whom this Grace or Blessing is to be bestowed.

Q. Have you any Reason to think that the Saints and Angels have any Knowledge of your Addresses or Petitions made to them?

A. Yes; we have. 1st, Because our Lord assures us, *Luke xv. v. 10.* That there is Joy in the Presence of the Angels of God, over one Sinner that repenteth. For if they rejoice at our Repentance, consequently they have a Knowledge of our Repentance; and if they have a Knowledge of our Repentance, what Reason can we have to doubt of their knowing our Petitions also? And what is here said of the Angels is also to be understood of the Saints, of whom our Lord tells us, *Luke xx. v. 36.* That they are equal unto the Angels.

2dly, Because the Angels of God, who, as we have already seen, are our Guardians, are always amongst us, and therefore cannot be ignorant of our Requests: especially since as we have also seen from *Rev. v. v. 8.* and *viii. v. 4.* both Angels and Saints offer up our Prayers before the Throne of God, and therefore must needs know them.

3dly, Because it appears from *Rev. xi. v. 15.* and *Rev. xix. v. 1,* and *2.* That the Inhabitants of Heaven know what passeth upon Earth. Hence *St. Paul,* *1 Cor. iv. v. 9.* speaking of himself and his fellow

Apostles saith, *We are made a Spectacle unto the World, and to Angels and to Men.*

4thly, We cannot suppose that the Saints and Angels, who enjoy the Light of Glory, can be ignorant of such Things, as the Prophets and Servants of God in this World have often known by the Light of Grace, and even the very Devils by the Light of Nature alone: Since the Light of Glory is so much more perfect than the Light of Grace or Nature, according to the Apostle, *1 Cor. xiii. v. 12. For now we see thro' a Glass darkly; but then Face to Face: Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known: That is, by a most perfect Knowledge.* Hence, *1 John iii. v. 2. It is written we shall be like him (God) for we shall see him as he is.* Now 'tis certain that the Servants of God in this World by a special Light of Grace have often known Things that pass'd at a great Distance, as *Elisba*, *2 Kings v.* knew what pass'd between *Naaman* and his Servant *Gebazi*, and *2 Kings vi.* what was done in the King of *Syria* his private Chamber. 'Tis also certain that the Devils by the meer Light of Nature know what passes amongst us, as appears by the Correspondence they hold with Magicians, and by their being our Accusers, *Rev. xii. v. 10.* Therefore we cannot reasonably question but that the Saints in Heaven know the Petitions which we address unto them.

5thly, In fine, because it is weak Reasoning to argue from our corporal Hearing (the Object of which being Sound, that is, a Motion or Undulation of the Air, cannot reach beyond a certain Distance) to the Hearing of Spirits which is independent on Sound, and consequently independent of Distance: Though the Manner of it be hard enough to explicate to those who know no other Hearing but that of the corporal Ear.

Q. *Have you any other Warrant in Scripture for the Invocation of Angels and Saints?*

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A. Yes; we have the Example of God's best Servants. Thus *Jacob*, *Gen.* *xlvi.* *v.* *15, 16.* begs the Blessing of his Angel Guardian for his two Grandsons *Ephraim* and *Manasseh*. *God before whom my Fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which sed me all my Life long until this Day, the Angel which redeemed me from all Evil, bless the Lads.* The same *Jacob*, *Hosea* *xii.* *v.* *4.* *Wept and made Supplication to an Angel.* And *St. John*, *Rev.* *i.* *v.* *4.* writing to the seven Churches of *Asia*, petitions for the Intercession of the seven chief Angels in their Favour. *Grace be unto you and Peace from him which is, and which was, and which is to come, and from the seven Spirits which are before his Throne.*

SECT. 4. Of Relicks.

Q. What do you mean by Relicks?

A. The Bodies or Bones of Saints; or any Thing else that has belong'd to them.

Q. What Grounds have you for paying a Veneration to the Relicks of the Saints?

A. Besides the ancient Tradition and Practice of the first Ages attested by the best Monuments of Antiquity, we have been warranted to do so by many illustrious Miracles done at the Tombs and by the Relicks of the Saints (see *St. Augustin*, *L.* *22.* *Of the City of God*, *cap.* *8.*) Which God, who is Truth and Sanctity itself, would never have effected, if this Honour paid to the precious Remnants of his Servants were not agreeable to him.

Q. Have you any Instances in Scripture of Miracles done by Relicks?

A. Yes, we read, *2 Kings* *xiii.* *v.* *21.* of a dead Man rais'd to Life by the Bones of the Prophet *Elisba*: And *Acts* *xix.* *v.* *12.* *From the Body of Paul were brought unto the Sick Handkerchiefs or Aprons, and the Diseases departed from them, and the evil Spirits went out of them.*

C H A P. IX.

Of Images.

Q. **W**HAT is your Doctrine as to Images?

A. We hold that the Images or Pictures of Christ, of his blessed Mother ever Virgin, and of other Saints, are to be had and retain'd; and that due Honour and Veneration is to be given them.

Q. Do you not worship Images?

A. No, by no means, if by *Worship* you mean *divine Honour*: For this we don't give to the highest Angel or Saint, nor even to the Virgin Mary, much less to Images.

Q. Do you not pray to Images?

A. No, we don't: Because as both our Catechism and common Sense teaches us, *They can neither see, nor hear, nor help us.* Doway Catechism.

Q. Why then do you pray before an Image or Crucifix?

A. Because the Sight of a good Picture or Image, for example of Christ upon the Cross, helps to enkindle Devotion in our Hearts towards him that has loved us to that Excess, as to lay down his Life for the Love of us.

Q. Are you not taught to put your Trust and Confidence in Images, as the Heathens did in their Idols; as if there were a certain Virtue, Power or Divinity residing in them.

A. No; we are expressly taught the Contrary by the Council of Trent Session 25.

Q. How do you prove that it is lawful to make or keep the Images of Christ and his Saints?

A. Because God himself commanded Moses, *Exod. xxv. v. 18, 19, 20, 21.* to make two Cherubims of beaten Gold, and place them at the two Ends of the Mercy-seat over the Ark of the Covenant in the very Sanctuary. And there, says he, *v. 22.* will I meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the Mercy-seat from between the two Cherubims which are upon

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upon the Ark of the Testimony, of all Things which I will give thee in Commandment unto the Children of Israel. God also commanded, Numb. xxi. v. 8, 9. a Serpent of Brasse to be made, for the healing of those who were bit by the fiery Serpents: which Serpent was an Emblem of Christ, John iii. v. 14, 15.

Q. But is it not forbidden, Exod. xxi. v. 4. To make the Likeness of any Thing in Heaven above, or in the Earth beneath, or in the Waters under the Earth?

A. It is forbidden to make to ourselves any such Image or Likeness; that is to say, to make it our God, or put our Trust in it, and give it the Honour which belongs to God: Which is explain'd by the following Words, Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, (that is, thou shalt not adore them, for so both the Septuagint and Vulgate translate it) nor serve them. Otherwise if all Likenesses were forbid by this Commandment we should be obliged to fling down our Sign-Posts, and deface the King's Coin.

Q. What Kind of Honour do Catholicks give to the Images of Christ and his Saints?

A. A relative Honour?

Q. What do you mean by a relative Honour?

A. By a relative Honour, I mean an Honour which is given to a Thing, not for any intrinsic Excellence or Dignity in the Thing itself, but barely for the Relation it has to something else, as when the Courtiers bow to the Chair of State, or Christians to the Name of Jesus, which is an Image or Remembrance of our Saviour to the Ear, as the Crucifix is the Eye.

Q. Have you any Instances of this relative Honour allow'd by Protestants?

A. Yes. In the Honour they give to the Name of Jesus, to their Churches, to the Altar, to the Bible, to the Symbols of Bread and Wine in the Sacrament. Such also was the Honour which the Jews gave to the Ark and Cherubims, and which Moses and Joshuab gave to the Land on which they

stood, as being *holy Ground*, *Exod. iii. v. 5. Josb. v. v. 15, &c.*

Q. How do you prove that there is a relative Honour due to the Images or Pictures Christ and his Saints?

A. From the Dictates of common Sense and Reason, as well as of Piety and Religion which teach us to express our Love and Esteem for the Persons whom we honour by setting a Value upon all Things that belong to them, or have any Relation to them: Thus a loyal Subject, a dutiful Child, a loving Friend value the Pictures of their King, Father or Friend; and those who make no Scruple of abusing the Image of *Christ* would severely punish the Man that would abuse the Image of his King.

Q. Does your Church allow of Images of God the Father, or of the Blessed Trinity?

A. Our Profession of Faith makes no mention of such Images as these: Yet we do not think them unlawful, provided that they be not understood to bear any Likeness or Resemblance of the Divinity, which cannot be express'd in Colours, or represented by any human Workmanship. For as *Protestants* make no Difficulty of painting the Holy Ghost under the Figure of a Dove, because he appear'd so when *Christ* was baptized, *Matt. iii. v. 16.* So we make no Difficulty of painting God the Father under the Figure of a Venerable Old Man; because he appear'd in that Manner to the Prophet *Daniel*, *cap. vii. v. 9.*

CHAP. X.

Of Indulgences.

Q. WHAT do you mean by Indulgences?

A. Not Leave to commit Sin, nor Pardon for Sins to come. But only a Releasing by the Power of the Keys committed to the Church the

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Debt of temporal Punishment, which may remain due upon Account of our Sins, after the Sins themselves as to the Guilt and eternal Punishment, have been already remitted by Repetance and Confession.

Q. Can you prove from Scripture that there is a Punishment often due upon Account of our Sins after the Sins themselves have been remitted?

A. Yes; this evidently appears in the Case of King David, 2 Sam. xii. where although the Prophet Nathan upon his Repetance, tells him, v. 13. The Lord hath put away thy Sin. Yet he denounces unto him many terrible Punishments, v. 10, 11, 12, 14. which should be inflicted by reason of this Sin, which accordingly afterwards ensued.

Q. What is the Faith of your Church touching Indulgences?

A. 'Tis compris'd in these Words of our Profession of Faith, I affirm that the Power of Indulgences was left by Christ in the Church, and that the Use of them is most wholesome to Christian People.

Q. Upon what Scripture do you ground this?

A. The Power of granting Indulgences was left by Christ to the Church. Matt. xvi. v. 19. I will give unto thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: And whatsoever thou shalt bind on Earth, shall be bound in Heaven: And whatsoever thou shalt loose on Earth, shall be loos'd in Heaven. And we have an Instance in Scripture of St. Paul's granting an Indulgence to the Corinthian whom he had put under Penance for Incest, 2 Cor. ii. v. 10. To whom ye forgive any Thing (he speaks of the incestuous Sinner whom he had desired them now to receive) I forgive also: For if I forgave any Thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the Person of Christ: That is, by the Power and Authority received from him.

C H A P. XI.

Of the Supremacy of St. Peter and his Successors.

Q. WHAT is the Catholick Doctrine, as to the Pope's Supremacy.

A. It is comprised in these two Articles. 1. That *St. Peter* by divine Commission was Head of the Church under *Christ*. 2dly, That the Pope, or Bishop of *Rome*, as Successor to *St. Peter*, is at present Head of the Church, and *Christ's* Vicar upon Earth.

Q. How do you prove St. Peter's Supremacy.

A. First, From the very Name of *Peter* or *Cephas*, which signifies a *Rock*, which Name our Lord, who does nothing without Reason, gave to him, who before was called *Simon*, to signify that he should be as the *Rock* or *Foundation* upon which he would build his Church. According to what he himself declared, *Matt. xvi. v. 18.* when he told him, *Thou art Peter (that is, a Rock) and upon this Rock will I build my Church, and the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.*

2dly, From the following Words, *Matt. xvi. v. 19.* *I will give unto thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on Earth, shall be bound in Heaven: And whatsoever thou shalt loose on Earth, shall be loosed in Heaven.* Where under the Figure of the *Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven*, our Lord ensured to *Peter* the chief Authority in his Church: As when a King gives to one of his Officers the *Keys of a City*, he thereby declares that he makes him Governor of that City.

3dly, From *Luke xxii. v. 31, 32.* *The Lord said Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as Wheat. But I have prayed for thee, that thy Faith fail not; and when thou art con-*

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verted strengthen thy Brethren. In which Text, our Lord not only declared his particular Concern for Peter in praying for him, that his Faith might not fail: But also committed to him the Care of his Brethren, the other Apostles, in charging him to confirm or strengthen them.

4thly, From *John xxi. v. 15, &c.* Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon Son of Jonas lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, yea Lord thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, FEED MY LAMBS: He saith to him again the second Time, Simon Son of Jonas lovest thou me? He saith unto him, yea Lord thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, FEED MY SHEEP. He saith unto him the third Time, Simon Son of Jonas lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third Time lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord thou knowest all Things, thou knowest that I love thee: Jesus saith unto him, FEED MY SHEEP. In which Text, our Lord in a most solemn Manner thrice committed to Peter the Care of his whole Flock, of all his Sheep without Exception, that is, of his whole Church.

Q. How do you prove that this Commission given to Peter, descends to the Pope, or Bishop of Rome?

A. Because by the unanimous Consent of the Fathers, and the Tradition of the Church in all Ages, the Bishops of Rome are the Successors of St. Peter, who translated his Chair from Antioch to Rome, and died Bishop of Rome. Hence the See of Rome in all Ages is called *The See of Peter, the Chair of Peter*, and absolutely *The See Apostolick*: And in that Quality has from the Beginning, exercised Jurisdiction over all other Churches, as appears from the best Records of ancient Church History.

Besides supposing the Supremacy of St. Peter, which we have proved above from plain Scripture, it must consequently be allowed, that this Supremacy, which Christ established for the better Government of his Church, and maintaining of Unity, was not to die with Peter, no more than the Church, which

which he promised should stand for ever. For how can any *Christian* imagine that *Christ* should appoint a Head for the Government of his Church, and maintaining of Unity during the Apostles Time; and design another Kind of Government for succeeding Ages, when there was like to be so much more need of a Head. Therefore we must grant, that *St. Peter's* Supremacy was by Succession to descend to some Body. Now I would willingly know who has Half so fair a Title to this Succession as the Bishop of *Rome*?

Q. Why do you call the Roman Church the Mother and Mistress of all Churches?

A. Because, as we have already seen, her Bishop is *St. Peter's* Successor, and *Christ's* Vicar upon Earth; and consequently the Father and Pastor of all the Faithful: And therefore this Church, as being *St. Peter's* See, is the Mother and Mistress of all Churches.

CONCLUSION.

Q. HAVE you any Thing more to add in Confirmation of all these Tenets contained in your Profession of Faith?

A. I shall add no more than this, that having already proved, in the first Chapter, that the Church in Communion with *Rome* is the true and only Church of *Christ*, and consequently, her Councils and Pastors the Guides of divine Appointment, which *Christ* has established to be our Conductors in the Way to a happy Eternity, it follows that we should without further Hesitation believe and profess what this Church and her Pastors believe and profess; and condemn and reject what they condemn and reject. Assuring ourselves that by doing thus we shall be
secure,

secure, since we shall follow those Guides which *Christ* himself has appointed, whom he has commanded us to hear, and with whom he has promised to abide to the End of the World.

Q. Why do you, in your Profession of Faith, make a Declaration of receiving in particular the Doctrine of the Council of Trent?

A. Because this was the last general Council called in Opposition to the new Doctrines of *Luther* and *Calvin*: And therefore we particularly declare our Assent to the Decrees of this Council, as being levelled against those Heresies which have been most prevalent in these two last Ages.

May the God of Unity, Peace and Truth, by his infinite Mercy conduct all *Christians* to Unity, Peace and Truth. *Amen, Amen.*

A N
A P P E N D I X,
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Some Motives for returning to the
Catholic Church ; derived from
her Characters in our *Creeeds*.

§. I. **S**INCE all who desire eternal Happiness in the next World, are (as their chief End) bound to serve God as his Servants, by observing the true Christian Faith, kept within the old and universal Church ; 'tis therefore the highest Concern of every one to see that he be neither seduced by a sensual Libertinism, nor a cool Indifferency, nor yet any prejudiced or ill Habit of Thinking, from a wrong Persuasion, Education, Ease, Interest, Liberty, or the like ; but it is required of him to make a strict and impartial Examination, whether he be joined to the true Church of Christ, in which alone Salvation can be attained. Any one that from a hearty Resolution for his Soul's Welfare, shall carefully

fully and without Prejudice make Enquiry after this Church, needs no more than common good Sense for his Conductor, if he will but diligently consider the Notes or characteristic Marks, by which the holy Fathers, and good Christians, in all Ages, have signalized and distinguished the true Catholic Church, from all false ones. These Marks then, in the Words of that great and holy Doctor St. *Augustin*, are four, by which he confesses himself inseparably conjoined and bound to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of *Rome*; and which held him stedfast in her Communion: *viz.* 1st, The Agreement of all Nations. 2^{dly}, The Evidence of Miracles. 3^{dly}, The continued Succession of chief Bishops, filling the Apostolic Chair of St. *Peter*. And, 4^{thly}, The Name of *Catholic*, by which our Creed points her out from all false or heretical Churches or Assemblies. See Ch. ix.

§. 2. The Catholic Church then is, 1st, *One*, and always the same, from the Days of *Adam*, under whom God was pleased to found her by Covenant, down to the after Ages of *Noah*, *Abram*, *Moses*, *Solomon*, &c. to the Coming of our Saviour; and from his Apostles down to this Day, and to the End of the World. She's but *one* Aggregate, joined together in *one* Faith, and *one* Communion; worshipping under *one* visible Head on Earth, and *one* invisible Head in Heaven. *One*, as she has had but *one* Chair, or chief Seat of visible Residence, which, in the old Law, is called the Chair of *Moses*, (Matt. xxiii. v. 2.) and in the new Law, is called from its Founder St. *Peter*; who removed the Chair from *Jerusalem*, where it resided under the Law of *Moses*, unto its present Residence in the holy and splendid City of *Rome*, which is the new or Christian *Jerusalem*. And accordingly she there claims, like the Temple and holy City of old, the *one* Supremacy or Rule over God's universal Church on Earth; dispensing *one* and the same Faith throughout the terraqueous Globe, and relieving all

final Appeals thence returning. And *finally*, because she is to continue in that her *one* and the same *settled* Residence to the End of the World, notwithstanding all Wars and Oppositions from the Devil, or his Abettors, to the contrary.

§. 3. That the Supremacy over all Christian Churches and Nations is perpetually annexed to the Chair of St. Peter, and his Successors, is not only approved by the Faith and Assent of the whole Catholic Church, through all Ages, to the present Day, but also by Scripture, *John xxi. v. 15 & 16.* where St. Peter appears to have received a special Charge or Commission above the other Apostles, who had before received all of them an Equality of Apostolical Charge or Jurisdiction, (*John xx. v. 21.*) but in this third Apparition of our Saviour, St. Peter is singled out from the other Apostles, and questioned whether he had more Love to his Master than his Brethren, and this by a Demand thrice repeated: After which he receives a Charge to feed the Sheep, (*i. e.* all the spiritual Fathers of the Church) as well as the Lambs (or spiritual Children of the said Apostles, and Fathers) that is to say, he is charged with the Care of his whole Flock or Church universally. For either Christ here, (*John xxi. v. 15, 16, &c.*) gave St. Peter no Power at all, which is contrary to the Text; or, if he gave him any, it was one *not common* to the rest present, who had all before received their common Mission, (*John xx. v. 21.*) That this is the true Sense of our Text also appears from many, even Protestant Commentators; and to mention one for the rest, Dr. Whitby has it, (*Matt. xvi. v. 18.*) thus: "As a suitable Return to thy Confession, I say unto thee, that thou art by name PETER, that is a Rock: And upon Thee, who art this Rock, I will build my Church, and will give to Thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: The Power of making Laws to govern my Church." Vide Whitby

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Whitby Paraph. Vol. I. p. 143. Add to this the visible Appearance of St. Peter's Supremacy over the other Apostles, 1st, in acting as their Head at their very first Synod or Meeting, to fill up the Apostleship of Judas, (*Acts i. v. 15, & seq.*) 2^{dly}, Whenever the Apostles are named, St. Peter is set in the first Place. Even St. Matthew, (*c. x. v. 2.*) not only names him first in Rank, but also makes him the first called; while the rest are mentioned without Distinction of Rank. 3^{dly}, He first takes upon him to vindicate the Apostles from the Aspersions of the Jews, at their Sermon after the Descent of the Holy Ghost, (*Acts ii.*) And finally, he wrought the first Miracle in Confirmation of the Gospel, (*Acts iii.*) made the first Sermon to the Gentiles, (*Acts x.*) and first received the Intelligence of the Call to the Gentiles, *ibid.* This is Scripture enough to demonstrate that as the true Church of Christ, is the Church of all Nations, (*Matt. xxviii. v. 19.*) so to shew its Unity, he was pleased to constitute one Head upon Earth for the Government of it. See p. 58.

§. 4. We have thus seen the first Mark or Characteristic, which the Creed uses to point out the Catholic Church by, namely, that she is *One*: For her Unity appears, 1st, From professing but *one Faith* throughout the World, as settled in the last general Council at Trent. 2^{dly}, She unites all Persons and Nations in *one Communion*, and under *one visible Head*. 3^{dly}, She guides her Faith and Pastors by only *one unerring Rule*, which is the Spirit or Direction of God, (either written in the sacred Scriptures and Councils, or un-written in her Traditions :) For as to any religious Controversies among us, they are in Matters of Opinion only, never in Matters of Faith; nor do they ever break our Communion, and consequently touch not the Unity of the Church. But can Protestants say as much of their Reformation, that has bred so many jarring Sects which will have no Communion one with the other? She

alone, 4thly, shews, one visible Succession uninterrupted, from our Saviour, and St. Peter, down to this Day. But if any object that in this Succession some have been wicked Men, let him take St. Augustin's Answer (in *Epist.* 166.) to *Generosus*, viz. "That
 " God makes his People secure with regard to evil
 " Governors, left upon their Account the Chair of
 " sound Doctrine should be forsaken, in which even
 " the Evil are constrained to deliver good Things:
 " For that they are not their own Things which
 " they say, but God's, who has placed the Doctrine
 " of Truth in the Chair of Unity. &c." See §. 2.

§. 5. The second Characteristic by which a Man that regards his Soul is to chuse out his Church, is that of *Holiness*: For the old or Catholic Church alone includes the *Holy Ghost*, or Spirit of God, to which all Sectaries are utter Strangers. She alone is *Holy* in her Foundation; laid by God himself: *Holy* in her Institutions or Sacraments; appointed by God himself: *Holy* in her Members, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Saints, Confessors, &c. She alone is *Holy* in her Head, invisibly Triumphant in Heaven; and his Vicar visibly Militant on Earth; who is therefore eminently called his *Holiness*, by all Christian Emperors, Kings, and Princes. She alone calls to *Sanctity*, and first imparts it by Baptism; and then teaches and confirms by her other Sacraments *Holiness* of Life, so eminently conspicuous in a numberless Catalogue of *holy Saints and Martyrs*, in every Age and Country, where they have been eminent for their *holy Miracles*: Wherefore she must needs be the *true Church*, inasmuch as she alone is found to be the Mother of all Saints, and the real Spouse of Christ, who has entitled all her Children Members of his mystical Body, to be fed with his real Body in this World, and to enjoy eternal *Holiness* and Happiness under him in the next.

§. 6. The third Mark of the Creed, peculiar to the true Church, is that of her being *Catholic*: And this has been in all Ages the glorious Character distinguishing her from all heretical Sects, departed from her Faith and Communion. She has been ever entitled to the Name of *Catholic* or *Universal* three Ways: 1st, In Point of *Universality of Time*; because the true Church must be the Church of *all Ages*. 2^{dly}, In *Universality of Place*; because the true Church must be the Church of *all Nations*, at least, by preaching her Faith to *all Nations*, in which she has been most remarkably successful by her Missions both in *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, (ever since Protestants broke off from her) making up their Loss by receiving at least an Equality of other Souls. Lastly, *Universality of Truth*; because the true Church of Christ must be ever Orthodox, teaching *all Truth* or Orthodoxy in her Faith and Doctrine. And this threefold Universality, implied in the Name *Catholic*, by which she is the Church of *all Ages*, of *all Nations*, and of *all Truth*, is very fairly expressed in our Saviour's Commission to her first Pastors, (*Matt. xxviii. v. 18. & seq.*) "All Power is given me in Heaven and on Earth. Go ye therefore and teach *all Nations*, baptizing them, &c.—teaching them to observe *all Things*, [i. e. divine Truths] whatsoever I have commanded you: And lo I am with you *all Days*, even to the Consummation or End of the World." Where we also see that the perpetual Presence and Assistance of Christ is promised, to maintain this her threefold Universality, by the unlimited Power given him over Heaven and Earth. And accordingly we have seen the Success of his Church, in the Conversion of the several Kingdoms and Principalities of *Europe* or *Christianity* more especially, unto her holy Faith and filial Obedience. But is there any one Protestant Church or Sect that will lay claim to these Pretensions, which are evidenced by the most authentic Monuments

ments of all Ages and Nations? This alone is enough to induce any Man, who will not yield to Lies, Prejudice, or secular Interest, to trust the Welfare of his Soul rather to that general Community, in which so many Ages of his Ancestors have so happily lived and died; rather than to throw away his Soul upon Libertinism, or trust it to a Quick-sand, who calls herself a Church, because she retains yet some few of the Forms and Disciplines of her once holy Mother, the Essence of whose Faith she has lately thrown away, together with her filial Obedience; and that purely to oblige the iniquitous Concupiscencies of a few secular Princes, who were only her temporal Guardians. For 'tis well known, by those who are at all versed in the *English* History, that King *Henry VIII.* first usurped the Supremacy or Rule of our true Church from the Tuition of our Saviour *Christ*, and his lawful Bishops, much against the real Consent of the latter, whom by Stratagem he had drawn into a Fear of their Lives and Estates, in order that he might first have the Liberty to abandon one of her Sacraments (that of Matrimony) to his Lust, and then put the Patrimony of the Church into his Coffers, to be squander'd away on his luxurious Pleasures. The Catholick Church of *England* being thus sacrilegeously torn from her holy Mother of *Rome*, was like a Child turning Rake, soon corrupted in her Faith and Morals by the spreading Poison of *Luther* and *Calvin*, the two most notorious and wicked Apostates the Church has ever discarded since the Time of *Judas*. From the Time of that King, the Church in *England* has dwindled to be the empty and deceptive Creature of mere human Opinion that she now is; a fatal Snare to poor Souls, the more dangerous and delusive as she appears formidable with Apparel and Disciplines retained from her holy Mother of *Rome*; without which she must have been ere now dissolved entirely into the lesser jarring Sects that have gone off from her.

§. 7. Let then the naked Truth induce you, my dear Friend, not to trust the eternal Welfare of your Soul to any new or up-start Church, or Society, supported by mere Lies, Art, and human Opinions; but with me say, It will not be fair to hinder my Soul from having the best chance to be saved; I will therefore join her to the good old Catholick Religion, which was lately that of my whole Country, in which my Ancestors have happily lived and died for fifteen Ages past; I will go with the universal Church of *Christ*, who so happily leads Emperors, Kings, Princes and their People in all Countries of the World; she who extends her parental Wings over Christendom, *France, Spain, Germany, Italy*, and the happy few in *Great Britain and Ireland*. Even at a mere hazard it will be 1500 to one but I must be right in so doing; since those, who are but of late, and call themselves Protestants, make but a Handful in respect to the vast bodies of Christians that have been and now are incorporated in the Catholick Church.

And finally, for that it is this Catholick Church alone that appears to be *Apostolic*, or to contain the apostolical *Succession*; she alone is Apostolic in her Foundation, in her Faith, in her Traditions, in her Missions, in her Clergy and Ordinations. She alone gives all the reasonable and satisfactory Proofs any Person unprejudiced can desire, for the Truth and Excellency of her Faith, Rites, and Disciplines, every way supported, (1.) By the Holy Scriptures; (2.) By the Holy Councils of all Ages; (3.) By the Writings of the Holy Fathers and Doctors of the Church; (4.) by common Sense and Reason, in making just Inferences from these Premises, backed by the greatest Majority of Nations, Countries, and Universities. Therefore I shall here leave my doubtful Neighbour, who is not yet established in the true Catholick Church of *Christ*, and recommend him for further Satisfaction to a little Treatise, call'd

The

The Grounds of the Old Religion, in Duodecimo, 1792, to be had of Mr. Gibson, Bookseller, in Charles-street, St. James's-Square; or of Mr. Marmaduke, in May's-Buildings, St. Martin's-lane. He may then also read a Book of the same Size, call'd The Catholick Christian Instructed, which will give full Satisfaction in all Points.— Scripture Proofs for all these Characteristics of the true christian Church are given in Chap. I. foregoing.

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